

Scandal-plagued EPA Administrator Pruitt resigns

By MICHAEL BIESECKER,
ZEKE MILLER and ELLEN
KNICKMEYER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt resigned Thursday amid ethics investigations of outsized security spending, first-class flights and a sweetheart condo lease. With Pruitt's departure, President Donald Trump loses an administrator many conservatives regarded as one of the more effective members of his Cabinet. But Pruitt had also been dogged for months by scandals that spawned more than a dozen federal and congressional investigations.

Continued on Page 4



In this May 16, 2018, file photo, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt appears before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on budget on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

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U.S. to reunite migrant families as immigration politics boil



Monserrat Padilla, left, puts her arm around Aurora, an undocumented immigrant, as Aurora speaks to several thousand demonstrators gathered outside the Federal Detention Center in SeaTac to protest the separation of families crossing the U.S.-Mexico border and President Donald Trump's immigration policies as part of a rally for Families Belong Together, Saturday, June 30, 2018, in Seattle.

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stung by a public outcry, the Trump administration said Thursday it will meet court-ordered deadlines for re-

Associated Press

uniting families separated at the border, even as the politics of immigration remained at a boil.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told reporters that his department is ready to reunite children

in its care with their parents, starting next Tuesday with those under age 5. HHS said it's using DNA testing as a backup to confirm the parent-child link and speed up the process. However, Azar warned that entire families may remain in the custody of immigration authorities for extended periods, even those who are claiming asylum. Before the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy, migrants seeking asylum under U.S. laws were often granted temporary release as their cases were resolved.

Azar also used a new and much higher number for migrant kids separated from their parents, "under 3,000" as compared with the figure of 2,047 he provided at a Senate hearing last week. Of those, about 100 are under five years old. He said the new number reflected a more thorough look by HHS at its case

files, and over a longer time period, to comply with the court order that families be reunited. That order had been issued after his Senate testimony.

Nonetheless, Azar's effort to provide a more accurate accounting only seemed to create more confusion. HHS has long been charged with caring for unaccompanied minors crossing the border, thousands of children every year. Usually, the agency places kids with a U.S. relative or foster family while their immigration cases are decided. This year, HHS also took on the role of caring for children separated from their parents as a consequence of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy.

Azar said the new number reflects a case-by-case audit of about 11,800 migrant children in its care, over a longer time frame. About 80 percent of those

children arrived unaccompanied at the border, and many are teenage boys.

Azar said the audit was done to make sure the agency was in full compliance with a court order issued after he had given senators a lower number.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego has ordered the youngest children reunited by Tuesday of next week, and the rest before the end this month. A court hearing on the administration's efforts and plans is scheduled for tomorrow. Azar called the deadlines "extreme" but said HHS will comply after an extensive effort to identify children in its shelters who were separated from their parents, to confirm parentage, and to screen parents for criminal violations or other problems that could result in harm to kids.

Continued on Page 3

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U.S. to reunite migrant families as immigration politics boil

Continued from Page 2

"While I know there has been talk of confusion, any confusion is due to a breakdown in our immigration system and court orders. It's not here," Azar said, adding that migrant children are being well cared for in HHS facilities.

Once HHS reunifies the families, they will be in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, Azar said. DHS has already started moving some parents to facilities closer to facilities where their children are being kept.

Azar said his department has more than 230 people working on just trying to match children with their parents.

DNA testing is being used as a backup to speed up matches if problems arise with paper documentation, said Jonathan White of the HHS Administration for Children and Families. It's done by swabbing the inside of the cheek of parent and child and sending the results to a lab for comparison.

Although White said DNA will only be used for reuniting families and genetic fingerprints will remain confidential, advocates for migrant families were concerned about intrusiveness. "This is potentially extremely harmful in aggregating a database of DNA that peo-

ple are somehow directed to provide in order to simply see their children," said Jonathan Ryan, executive director of the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, a Texas nonprofit. Shortly before Azar spoke, President Donald Trump took to Twitter, showing no signs of backing away from "zero tolerance."

Only recently, the president had told Republicans in Congress to stop wasting their time on immigration until after November's elections, but now Trump is insisting that Congress "FIX OUR INSANE IMMIGRATION LAWS NOW!"

The tweets seemed to carry an ominous message for border crossers.

"When people, with or without children, enter our Country, they must be told to leave without our," Trump wrote. "Tell the people 'OUT,' and they must leave, just as they would if they were standing on your front lawn."

Congress has been unable to advance major immigration legislation going back to the George W. Bush years. Republicans are divided among hardliners and business-oriented moderates who don't see immigration as a threat. Democrats want a path to citizenship for people living in the country illegally, which many Republicans

deride as "amnesty." □

Diego Magalhaes, left, 10, kisses his mother Sirley Silveira, Paixao, an immigrant from Brazil seeking asylum with her son, after Diego was released from immigration detention, Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Chicago.

Associated Press



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PRUITT

Continued from Front

Talking to reporters on Air Force One, Trump continued to praise his scandal-plagued EPA chief, saying there was "no final straw" and he had not asked for Pruitt's resignation.

"Scott is a terrific guy," Trump said. "He came to me and said I have such great confidence in the administration I don't want to be a distraction. ... He'll go and do great things and have a wonderful life, I hope."

In his resignation letter to Trump, obtained by The Associated Press, Pruitt expressed no regrets.

"It is extremely difficult for me to cease serving you in this role first because I count it a blessing to be serving you in any capacity, but also, because of the transformative work that is occurring," Pruitt wrote. "However, the unrelenting attacks on me personally, my family, are unprecedented and have taken a sizable toll on all of us."

Pruitt, a Republican, had appeared Wednesday at a White House picnic for Independence Day, wearing a red-checked shirt and loafers with gold trim. Trump gave him and other officials a brief shout-out, offering no sign of any immediate change in his job. EPA Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist, will take the helm as acting administrator starting Monday.

"I have no doubt that Andy will continue on with our great and lasting EPA agenda," Trump tweeted Thursday.

Pruitt's resignation came days after two of his closest advisers spoke to House oversight committee investigators and revealed new, embarrassing details in ethics scandals involving Pruitt. Samantha Dravis, who re-



In this July 4, 2018, photo, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt stands on the South Lawn of the White House during a picnic for military families in Washington.

Associated Press

cently resigned as Pruitt's policy chief, told investigators last week that Pruitt had made clear to her before and after he became EPA administrator that he would like the attorney general's job, held then and now by Jeff Sessions. Pruitt "had hinted at that (sic) some sort of conversation had taken place between he and the president," Dravis told congressional investigators, according to a transcript obtained Thursday by the AP. "That was the position he was originally interested in." A former Oklahoma attorney general close to the oil and gas industry, Pruitt had filed more than a dozen lawsuits against the agency he was picked to lead. Arriving in Washington, he worked relentlessly to dismantle Obama-era environmental regulations that aimed to reduce toxic pollution and planet-warming carbon emissions.

During his one-year tenure, Pruitt crisscrossed the country at taxpayer expense to speak with industry groups and hobnob with GOP donors, but he showed little interest in listening to ad-

vocates he derided as "the environmental left." Those groups quickly applauded his departure.

"Despite his brief tenure, Pruitt was the worst EPA chief in history," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity. "His corruption was his downfall, but his pro-polluter policies will have our kids breathing dirtier air long after his many scandals are forgotten."

Like Trump, Pruitt voiced skepticism about mainstream climate science and was a fierce critic of the Paris climate agreement. The president cheered his EPA chief's moves to boost fossil fuel production and roll back regulations opposed by corporate interests.

But despite boasts of slashing red tape and promoting job creation, Pruitt had a mixed record of producing real-world results. Many of the EPA regulations Pruitt scraped or delayed had not yet taken effect, and the tens of thousands of lost coal mining jobs the president pledged to bring

back never materialized. Pruitt was forced out following a series of revelations involving pricey trips with first-class airline seats and unusual security spending, including a \$43,000 sound-proof booth for making private phone calls. He also demanded 24-hour-a-day protection from armed officers, resulting in a swollen 20-member security detail that blew through overtime budgets and racked up expenses of more than \$3 million.

Pruitt routinely ordered his EPA staff to do personal chores for him, including picking up his dry cleaning and trying to obtain a used Trump hotel mattress for his apartment. He had also enlisted his staff to contact conservative groups and companies to find a lucrative job for his unemployed wife, including emails seeking a Chick-fil-A franchise from a senior executive at the fast-food chain.

Pruitt's job had been in jeopardy since the end of March, when ABC News first reported that he leased a Capitol Hill condo last year for just \$50 a night. It

was co-owned by the wife of a veteran fossil fuels lobbyist whose firm had sought regulatory rollbacks from EPA.

Both Pruitt and the lobbyist, Steven Hart, denied he had conducted any recent business with EPA. But Hart was later forced to admit he had met with Pruitt at EPA headquarters last summer after his firm, Williams & Jensen, revealed he had lobbied the agency on a required federal disclosure form.

Pruitt also publicly denied any knowledge of massive raises awarded to two close aides he had brought with him to EPA from Oklahoma. Documents later showed Pruitt's chief of staff had signed off on the pay hikes, indicating he had the administrator's consent.

The slew of damaging revelations, many of which came to light through media reports and public records lawsuits filed by environmental groups, triggered more than a dozen investigations related to Pruitt's conduct by EPA's Office of Inspector General, the House Oversight Committee and other federal watchdogs.

It was not immediately clear how Pruitt's resignation might affect those ongoing probes. No longer a federal employee, Pruitt can't be compelled to speak or otherwise cooperate with the inspector general's investigation. As a private citizen, he could still be subpoenaed to testify before Congress, but Republican-led committees have thus far shown little appetite in forcing him to do so.

Jennifer Kaplan, a spokeswoman for EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins, said Thursday that the office was "assessing and evaluating" its ongoing audits and investigations in the wake of Pruitt's departure. □

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Man pleads not guilty to hate crimes in attack on protesters

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)

— An Ohio man pleaded not guilty to federal hate crime charges Thursday in a deadly car attack on a crowd of protesters opposing a white nationalist rally in Virginia.

James Alex Fields Jr. entered the plea during his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Charlottesville after being charged last week with 30 federal crimes in the Aug. 12 violence that killed 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injured dozens more. He also is charged under Virginia law with murder and other crimes.

Fields, of Maumee, Ohio, wore a gray striped jumpsuit and sat quietly, giving brief answers to the judge's questions. He entered the courtroom wearing handcuffs and shackles. The cuffs were removed when he came in, then re-fastened when he left. His attorneys made no request for bail.

He told U.S. Magistrate Judge Joel Hoppe that he is being treated for bipolar

disorder, anxiety, depression and ADHD, and is taking medication. But also said the drugs do not impair his ability to understand the charges against him.

Hoppe said Fields is qualified to be represented by a federal public defender, and appointed legal counsel for him.

The 21-year-old defendant said he has a high school education and has worked as a security guard.

Some survivors of the attack were among the dozens of people in the courtroom. Also present was Heyer's mother, Susan Bro.

Talking with news reporters outside the courthouse, Bro said she expected a not-guilty plea at this stage of the case, but added she still "felt a little punched in the gut."

She also said she was a little surprised that Fields' voice sounded "bold."

"I just somehow expected him to sound more timid and abashed, but he didn't sound like it at all," Bro said. The "Unite the Right" rally

drew hundreds of white nationalists to the college town, where officials planned to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds more came out to protest against the white nationalists.

The car attack came after vicious brawling broke out between white nationalists and counterdemonstrators and authorities forced the crowd to disband.

Prosecutors allege that after the crowd broke up, Fields drove his car toward the area where a racially diverse group of people had gathered to protest the rally. They say he rapidly accelerated his gray Dodge Challenger into the crowd. The car then reversed and fled.

Fields, who has been described by authorities and others who knew him as an admirer of Adolf Hitler, was arrested a relatively short while later. The 21-year-old has been in custody since the attack.

According to an indict-



ment, Fields expressed white supremacist views on social media ahead of the rally, such as support for Hitler's policies, including the Holocaust.

As he prepared to leave for Charlottesville, a family member sent him a text message urging him to be careful and Fields replied, "We're not the ones who need to be careful," attaching an image of Hitler, the indictment said.

The morning of the rally, Fields engaged in chants promoting or expressing

white supremacist and other racist views, according to the indictment.

One of the federal charges Fields faces carries the death penalty, although prosecutors have not decided yet whether they will seek that punishment.

The local commonwealth's attorney whose office is prosecuting the state-level charges has said the federal indictment will have no effect on that pending case. Fields is set to face trial on those charges later this year. □

Do-over set after all-white photo at St. Louis dedication



In this July 3, 2018, file photo, Susan Saarinén, daughter of Gateway Arch architect Eero Saarinen, cuts the ribbon dedicating the renovation to the newly renamed Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Associated Press

ST LOUIS, Mo. (AP) — A black state lawmaker will

hold a do-over Friday after a social media backlash over ribbon-cutting photos

from the revitalized Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis that included only white people.

Democratic state Rep. Bruce Franks Jr. said Thursday on Facebook Live that the image wasn't reflective of the city he represents. He proposed a new photo

with black leaders, and scheduled a new ribbon cutting for noon Friday. "We want to show what St. Louis really looks like tomorrow," he said. Just over 200 people had RSVP'd for Franks' event on Facebook as of Thursday afternoon.

The photos from the dedication featured more than a dozen people, including Republican Gov. Mike Parson and U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, and Roy Blunt, a Republican. The Gateway Arch Park Foundation apologized in a statement Wednesday. □

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Surge in illegal California pot shops undercuts legal market

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A slight marijuana smell wafted out as a steady stream of customers walked into a warehouse, its doors and windows covered by bars. Suddenly, police swooped in. Sheriff's department ! Search warrant ! " a Los Angeles County deputy shouted as the team thundered through the front door and began hauling out people in handcuffs.

The Compton 20 Cap Collective just south of Los Angeles that was raided earlier this spring is one of hundreds of illegal marijuana stores operating in LA County, where marijuana is legal for anyone 21 and over and retailers must be licensed to sell to them.

Broad marijuana legalization arrived in California at the start of the year. From the beginning, there was concern the legal market would be undercut by the massive black market that has existed for decades. And that's what's happening. Nowhere is it a bigger problem than in the state's biggest legal local mari-



In this March 15, 2018 photo, two undercover Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies dump marijuana into an evidence bag during a raid at an illegal marijuana dispensary during a raid in Compton, Calif.

Associated Press

juana market: Los Angeles County.

The number of outlaw dispensaries in the county greatly outnumbers about 150 licensed storefront retailers.

That reality is a buzzkill for those trying to play by the rules.

Legal pot shops are losing customers who can get products more cheaply at illegal outlets that don't charge or pay taxes, said Adam Spiker, executive director of the Southern California Coalition, a trade organization that represents cannabis growers, distribu-

tors and dispensary owners. It's an "unfair competitive situation for licensed businesses," Spiker said.

"I think if you turn the tables and took cannabis out of the equation — if it was another industry that didn't have the stigmas — the government would do everything they could to give those licensed business paying taxes a level playing field."

One of the selling points for legalization was it would generate a tax windfall for state and local governments. However, during the first quarter, the state reported only \$34 million from cultivation and excise taxes, putting it on pace to fall well below the \$175 million forecast for the first six months. In April, state regulators sent nearly 1,000 cease-and-desist letters to cannabis businesses they suspected were operating illegally. An analysis by the trade publication Marijuana Business Daily found about 64 percent of the businesses were in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Last month, the Los Angeles city attorney's office charged 142 people as part of a crackdown on illegal dispensaries. It also sent cease-and-desist letters but declined to say how many.

Los Angeles County boasts

the nation's largest sheriff's department, but even it has nowhere near the manpower to take down all the illegal pot shops. A task force overseen by Lt. Frank Montez raids an average of one dispensary a week.

However, the voter-approved ballot measure legalizing cannabis in California included a provision that made possessing more than 28.5 grams only a misdemeanor. That means officers can seize businesses' cash and marijuana, but employees and owners rarely face jail, and illegal operations often quickly reopen.

"It's a money-lucrative business so there are people willing to take the risk," said Capt. Holly Francisco, who commands the sheriff's department's narcotics unit.

Montez sees his work as more than code enforcement. Marijuana sold illegally may be tainted with illegal pesticides and other harmful substances. And licensed marijuana shop owners who pay their taxes should have a fair playing field, he said.

"When you have an illegitimate, illegal dispensary operating, that not only hurts the industry as a whole but that really hurts the community," Montez said.

At the Compton store, a sign above a security window says customers must be at least 18 and have a physician's recommendation to buy medical marijuana and be 21 and have a valid photo ID for anything else. Like many others, the shop operated in plain sight and advertised online, including on Weed-Maps, a go-to website for people looking to buy cannabis. Inside, whiteboards on dirt-smudged walls advertised the prices for different types of cannabis and concentrates.

Cartridges for vapor pens and "Shatter," a honey-like oil containing cannabis extract, cost between \$15 and \$30. Large display cases held jars of branded marijuana strains — 28 grams of "Purple Dragon" sold for \$160. □

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ASHORE TO ASSIST ON HOLIDAY

Statue of Liberty climber pleads not guilty to trespassing

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An unrepentant protester who climbed the base of the Statue of Liberty on a busy Fourth of July in what prosecutors called a "dangerous stunt" pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Activists packed into a Manhattan courtroom cheered when a federal magistrate judge released Therese Okoumou without bail after she had spent the night behind bars. Okoumou responded by raising her fist and blowing kisses to her supporters.

Outside court, the naturalized U.S. citizen from Congo told reporters that she climbed the landmark as a spur-of-the moment protest over the Trump administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies that resulted in the separation of immigrant children from parents accused of crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

"When they go low, we go high and I went as high as

I could," Okoumou said, paraphrasing former First Lady Michelle Obama. "No children belong in a cage," she added.

Okoumou, who goes by her middle name, Patricia, sported a T-shirt reading "White Supremacy is Terrorism" that she had worn inside-out in court.

Okoumou, 44, of Staten Island, allegedly "staged a dangerous stunt that alarmed the public and endangered her own life and the lives of the (New York Police Department) officers who responded to the scene," U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said in a statement.

Court papers also charged Okoumou with resisting arrest by refusing to leave her perch by the bottom of the statue's robes, about 100 feet (30 meters) above ground. Police were forced to scale the statue to pull her down.

If convicted, Okoumou, would face up to six months behind bars on each count. The National Park Service decided to evacuate more than 4,000 visitors from Lib-



Therese Okoumou leaves Federal court, Thursday, July 5, 2018, in New York. Okoumou, who climbed the base of the Statue of Liberty on a busy Fourth of July in what prosecutors called a "dangerous stunt" pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Associated Press

erty Island on Wednesday "out of an abundance of caution," said spokesman Jerry Willis. Average attendance for the Fourth of July is 20,000 to 25,000 people, he added.

The park service also was taking a closer look at the statue to see if there was

any damage, though that's unlikely, Willis said. The copper-pounded skin is only the thickness of two pennies but "it's strong," he said. "That statue has been out in the middle of New York Harbor for 130 years — with hurricanes and lightning and everything that nature

has thrown at her," he said. "She's survived quite well."

The park service was reviewing security videotape to try to determine how the woman was able to make the climb, Willis said. Asked about it herself, Okoumou smiled and responded: "I did a pull up." □



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Leaders of Germany, Hungary trade barbs on migration

By **FRANK JORDANS**
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban traded barbs Thursday on the issue of migration, underlining the split within the entire European Union over how to deal with people seeking refuge or a better life on the continent.

Speaking at a joint news conference after their meeting in Berlin, Merkel said despite recent moves by EU nations to clamp down on asylum-seekers moving across Europe's open borders, she wants to ensure they are treated with "humanity" and the continent isn't turned into a "fortress" Europe.

"The problem I see, and where (our) difference lies, is that we must always remember and never forget that this is about human beings," Merkel told reporters.

"Europe can't detach itself from hardship and suffering," she said, adding that illegal migration can only be stopped if there are legal avenues by which people can come to the continent to work and study.

Merkel described Hungary's stance as "a problem" during the testy 27-minute news conference that saw the leaders repeatedly rebut each other's comments.

"Germany and Hungary see the world differently," said Orban, one of the strongest critics of Merkel's migration policy since 2015, when thousands poured into Europe every day.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, brief the media after a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Thursday, July 5, 2018.

Associated Press

While he expressed a willingness to talk, Orban said his position hadn't changed over the past three years.

"We only know one solution: close the borders," he said, adding that if Europe offers support to refugees, it will be taken as an invitation.

"If people can come, they will come," he said.

He noted that that Hungary has deployed 8,000 police and soldiers to prevent migrants from entering the bloc through its southern border.

"We think it's unfair that Germany often accuses us of a lack of solidarity," Orban said.

Even though the number of

migrants entering Europe this year is down sharply from the past few years, the issue of migration has strained Merkel's governing coalition and divided the 28-nation EU in general. In the last month Italy and Malta have refused to take in migrants rescued at sea by aid groups, and Merkel has had to agree with her conservative allies to turn back asylum-seekers who've registered in another of the bloc's nations. Orban made clear that he believes asylum-seekers who register in Hungary must have come through Greece or Bulgaria first, and his country therefore won't feel obliged to take

them if they are turned back by Germany.

Migrants are supposed to be returned to where they first entered the EU and applied for asylum, but those regulations have been largely unenforced.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, who has pushed Merkel to take a harder line against migrants, said a new plan to establish migrant detention centers envisions sending people directly back to where they first entered the EU — primarily Greece and Italy.

Speaking after talks with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz in Vienna, Seehofer said he expects "very

difficult talks" with Italy and Greece on the issue.

The interior ministers of Austria, Germany and Italy will talk in the city of Innsbruck next week about the issue, Kurz said.

Later in the evening, representatives of Merkel's conservative bloc and junior coalition partner Social Democrats meeting in Berlin agreed to streamline asylum procedures and to bring a revised immigration law before the Cabinet this year, said Andrea Nahles, the head of the Social Democrats.

Seehofer sought to allay concerns from Nahles' party of large migrant camps on the borders, assuring that the so-called transfer centers he wants to establish "would have no barbed wire or the like," and would be set up in existing police stations that would deal with the cases of only a handful of migrants a day. Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said if Italy were to enter an agreement, existing accords for migrants to be distributed throughout the EU fairly must be respected.

"Before taking back not one asylum-seeker in Italy, we'll wait until the other countries take the tens of thousands who should have been already taken with the relocation" accords, Salvini told reporters in Rome.

He added that before any asylum-seekers are returned to Italy, "we want clear commitments on men, means and money to protect the external borders" of the EU. □



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Israel lays down red lines for postwar relations with Syria

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — As Syrian government forces press on with a furious offensive against rebel-held areas in the country's south, Israel is quietly acknowledging that President Bashar Assad's forces will soon be on its doorstep, laying down red lines for postwar relations with the Syrian leader.

Israel's main concern is to keep archrival Iran, an Assad ally, as far away from its border as possible — along with its proxy, the Lebanese militia Hezbollah. "Our demand is that the Iranian forces will go out or withdraw from Syria as a whole, and in it specifically southwest Syria," said a senior Israeli military official.

It is a turnaround from a few years ago, when Israeli leaders were publicly predicting Assad's overthrow and some voices even mused about peace with a future democratic Syria.

While carefully refusing to take sides in the Syrian civil war, Israel offered humanitarian assistance to rebels, and it has made a public show of taking in several thousand wounded Syrians for medical treatment.

But there is a sense now in Israel, as in parts of the West, that despite Assad's vicious conduct of the war — with hundreds of thousands killed and millions forced from their homes — his survival may be a less bad outcome than a takeover of Syria by Islamic militants who emerged over time as his most potent rivals.

Israeli leaders have sent a series of messages making clear that they expect Assad and his Iranian-backed allies to honor a decades-old agreement that sets out a demilitarized zone along the frontier and



Jordanian residents of Jabir village watch aid deliveries to Syrians fleeing government offensive in the south, Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

limits the number of forces each side can deploy within 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the zone.

"We have a Separation of Forces Agreement with Syria from 1974," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared this week.

"This is the guiding principle. We will adhere to it very strictly and so must others, everyone."

The agreement was signed a year after an Arab-Israeli war in which Syrian forces failed to retake a large part of the Golan Heights area seized by Israel in 1967.

The strategic highland has since been annexed by Israel, bringing some Israeli troops as well as settlements to within a few dozen miles (kilometers) of Damascus. Although Syria has long demanded the area back — and no countries recognize Israel's annexation — the border has mostly been quiet for decades. Israel and Syria are believed to have come close to a land-for-peace deal in the past, but today the

chaos in Syria is widely seen as having justified Israel's continued hold on the Golan.

The agreement was adhered to generally until the Syria war. But Israel has looked the other way amid minor violations of the agreement throughout the fighting — understanding that it would be hard to enforce given the numerous forces active in the area. But as Assad consolidates his gains, Israel wants the agreement strictly enforced once more.

The Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity under briefing guidelines, said that while there is no love lost for Assad, the Israeli thinking recognizes the emerging reality.

"We are looking for an address, a reliable one. We are looking for security and defense to our territory, interests and people," he said. "If we get that, of course, it's fine with us."

Stephane Cohen, a former Israeli liaison officer to U.N.

observers in the Golan, said Syria is expected to honor the 1974 agreement, as it did in the past. "The problem is what that comes with now, which is Iran and Hezbollah and other Shiite proxies. That's the issue," he said.

One complicating factor is that the U.N. peacekeepers have been forced to abandon their positions during the fighting and would need to return to monitor the truce.

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest threat, citing repeated Iranian calls for Israel's destruction, Iran's support for Hezbollah and other hostile militant groups and its development of long-range missiles.

Although Israel has refrained from taking sides in the Syrian war, it has been active in the skies over Syria. It has acknowledged carrying out dozens of airstrikes on suspected arms shipments bound for Hezbollah and is widely believed to have attacked a series of Iranian targets in

recent months.

A turning point came in February, when Israel says an armed Iranian drone entered its airspace. Israel shot down the drone, then struck Iranian targets deep in Syria before one of its warplanes was downed.

Then, in early May, Israel attacked what it said was dozens of Iranian targets in Syria in response to Iranian rocket fire aimed at Israel. The rocket fire was retaliation for earlier Israeli strikes. Since then, Israel has repeatedly said it will not allow Iran, or its Shiite proxies, to establish a permanent presence in postwar Syria. The Israeli military official said the concern is that Iran will use these forces to launch a low-level "war of attrition" with Israel.

A key player could be Russia, which also sent forces into Syria to back Assad. Israel announced Thursday that Netanyahu will travel to Russia next week to meet with President Vladimir Putin, for what is expected to be the latest in a series of discussions about Syria.

For several years, Israel and Russia have maintained a special hotline to prevent their air forces from clashing in the skies over Syria. Israeli officials say the system has worked well.

In new fighting Thursday, Syrian and Russian forces launched a wave of air strikes against rebel-held areas in the southwest and pushed into a major town, resuming a wide-scale offensive after negotiations between Russia and the rebels collapsed.

The government's advance in the southern Daraa province, which began on June 19, has captured wide areas and forced an estimated 330,000 people to flee their homes. □

Out of the shadows: Rohingya rape survivors' babies arrive

By KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press

UKHIYA, Bangladesh (AP)

— Tucked away in the shadows of her family's bamboo shelter, the girl hid from the world.

She was 13, and she was petrified. Two months earlier, soldiers had broken into her home back in Myanmar and raped her, an attack that drove her and her terrified family over the border to Bangladesh. Ever since, she had waited for her period to arrive. Gradually, she came to realize that it would not.

For the girl, a Rohingya Muslim who agreed to be identified by her first initial, A, the pregnancy was a prison she was desperate to escape. The rape itself had destroyed her innocence. But carrying the baby of a Buddhist soldier could destroy her life.

More than 10 months have passed since Myanmar's security forces launched a sweeping campaign of rape and other brutalities against the Rohingya, and the babies conceived during those assaults have been born. For many of



In this Monday, June 25, 2018, photo, "S" holds her baby boy as she sits in her shelter in Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh.

their mothers, the births have been tinged with fear — not only because the infants are reminders of the horrors they survived, but because their community often views rape as shameful, and bearing a baby conceived by Buddhists as sacrilege.

Theirs is a misery spoken of only in murmurs. Some ended their pregnancies early by taking cheap abortion

-pills available throughout the camps. Others agonized over whether to give their unloved babies away. One woman was so worried about her neighbors discovering her pregnancy that she suffered silently through labor in her shelter, stuffing a scarf in her mouth to swallow her screams. In Bangladesh's overcrowded refugee camps, A knew that hiding her pregnancy would be difficult and hiding a wailing newborn impossible.

She worried that giving birth to this child would leave her so tainted that no man would ever want her as his wife. Her mother took her to a clinic for an abortion. But A was so frightened by the doctor's description of possible side effects that she thought she would die. And so she retreated to her shelter, where she tried to flatten her growing belly by wrapping it in tight layers of scarves. She hid there for months, emerging only to use the latrine a few meters away.

There was nothing to do but wait with dread for the baby who symbolized the pain of an entire people to arrive.

For the women who became pregnant during last year's wave of attacks in Myanmar, to speak the truth is to risk losing everything. Because of that, no one knows how many rape survivors have given birth.

But given the vastness of the sexual violence — as documented in an investigation by The Associated Press — relief groups had braced for a spike in deliveries and scores of abandoned babies.

By June, though, the birth rate in medical clinics had remained relatively steady, and only a handful of babies have been found left behind. Aid workers suspected that many women had tried to hide their pregnancies, avoiding doctors.

"I'm sure many have also died during the pregnancy or during the delivery," says Medecins Sans Frontieres midwife Daniela Cassio, a sexual violence specialist.

Yet sprinkled throughout the camps, you will find women who have grown weary of the silence. Ten such women and girls agreed to interviews with the AP. They consented to be identified in this story by their first initials only, citing fear of retaliation from Myanmar's military.

H, who had an abortion, was once so ashamed of her pregnancy that she told no one. In Myanmar, where the Rohingya people have few rights and Rohingya women even less, she had no voice. But here, she says, she feels she can finally speak.

"I don't want to hide anymore," she says.

The monsoon rains thundering down on the roof of A's

shelter threaten to drown out her words. Her voice still has a childlike softness, and when she speaks of the soldiers who raped her, it fades to a whisper.

Already, several men once interested in marrying her have walked away when they've learned about the attack. And yet, with her parents' blessing, she leans in close to share her story.

"I want justice," she says. "That's why I'm talking to you."

One day in May, after months of isolation, her contractions began.

She was still a child herself, overwhelmed with uncertainty over what to expect. And she cringed at the thought of what others would say.

For hours, she labored on the dirt floor of her shelter, until at last, she pushed out a baby girl.

She looked down at the infant and began to shake. Gazing at her child, she saw beauty. But she also saw pain.

She knew she could not keep the girl.

Her father hurried to a clinic run by a relief group and asked them to take the baby away. An aid worker soon arrived to retrieve the infant.

She kissed her daughter's head and tiny hands. And then she tearfully handed the baby over.

She doesn't know who is caring for her baby now, but groups like Save the Children and UNICEF have found Rohingya families willing to take in such children. The organizations have placed around ten babies with new families, says Krissie Hayes, a child protection in emergencies specialist with UNICEF.

Sometimes, she says, an aid worker stops by the shelter to show her photos of her daughter.

"Even though I got this baby from the Buddhists, I love her," she says. "Because I carried her for nine months."

For her, giving the baby away was the right decision. It was the only decision.

But she aches for her still. □



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Japan nuclear agency urges measures to cut plutonium stocks

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's nuclear policy-setting body on Thursday endorsed a call for stricter management of its fuel recycling program to reduce its plutonium stockpile.

The annual "nuclear white paper" approved by the Atomic Energy Commission is an apparent response to intensifying pressure from Washington as it pursues denuclearization in North Korea. It says Japan's fuel recycling program should continue, but minimize the amount of plutonium extracted from spent fuel for reuse in power generation to eventually reduce the stockpile.

Japan has pledged to not possess plutonium that does not have a planned use, but the promise increasingly sounds empty because of the slow restarts of Japanese power-generating reactors that can burn plutonium amid setbacks from the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Though Japanese officials deny any possible misuse of the material and reprocessing technology, the large stockpile of plutonium that can make atomic bombs also raises security concerns as the U.S. wants North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

Commission chairman Yoshiaki Oka said the effort to tackle the stockpile is Japan's own initiative underscoring its commitment to a peaceful nuclear program, and not because of the U.S. Oka said he was not aware of any outstanding problem between the two countries over the plutonium issue, but that Japan is taking into consideration the importance of maintaining "relationship of trust with the U.S."



This Nov. 8, 2012, file photo shows a floor crane, foreground, and storage pits at the vitrified high-level radioactive waste storage center, Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd.

Associated Press

The commission is compiling guidelines to better manage and reduce the plutonium stockpile. Measures would include some government oversight in setting a cap on plutonium reprocessing and a study into how to steadily reduce the plutonium processed abroad.

Oka declined to cite a numerical target, but he said reducing the stockpile is a "must."

Japan has nearly 47 tons of plutonium — 10 tons at home and the rest in France and Britain, where spent fuel from Japanese nuclear plants has been reprocessed because Japan is not able to reprocess it into plutonium-based MOX fuel at home.

The amount is enough to make 6,000 atomic bombs, but at Japan's Rokkasho reprocessing plant denies any risk of proliferation, citing its safeguards and close monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency. After years of delay due to technical issues, the Rokkasho plant is in the final stages of safety approvals by the regulators ahead of its planned launch in 2021. Critics, however, say that starting up the plant only adds to the stockpile.

The plant at full capacity can annually produce 8 tons of plutonium, and

burning that would require 16-18 reactors — a long shot given the slow pace of restarts and public resistance. Japanese utility operators are also opting to decommission aged reactors rather than making costly safety upgrades to meet the post-Fukushima standards.

Only four reactors have restarted since the Fukushima crisis, using stricter safety requirements and despite resistance of neighbors.

Another setback for Japan's plutonium balance is a failure of Monju, a plutonium-burning reactor built as the centerpiece of Japan's fuel recycling program. Monju had been suspended after a major accident in 1995 and is now being scrapped. □



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Puerto Rico sues control board over budget differences

By **DANICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — Puerto Rico's government sued a federal control board on Thursday to resolve a disagreement over two competing budgets that aim to pull the U.S. territory out of an 11-year recession.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he is seeking an injunction to stop the board from imposing an \$8.76 billion budget that contains various austerity measures, and he accused it of trying to dictate the island's public policy. "Our north will always be to defend the most vulnerable in all forums," he said in a statement.

The lawsuit is expected to define the powers of a board created by U.S. Congress two years ago to oversee Puerto Rico's finances.

The suit accuses the board of imposing its policy preferences on Puerto Ricans and micromanaging all budget expenditures, warning it could increase the flow of migration to the U.S. mainland, which would reduce the tax base and worsen the island's economic and humanitarian problems.

"The board's efforts exceed its lawful powers," the law-



In this Nov. 14, 2017 photo, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, speaks during a Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on hurricane recovery, in Washington.

Associated Press

suit states. "(It) cannot do what it is attempting to do: impose mandatory workforce reductions, change the roles and responsibilities of certain government officials, criminalize certain acts under Puerto Rico law and otherwise seek to micromanage Puerto Rico's government."

The lawsuit is a result of budget wrangling in Puerto Rico: One budget was approved by the board and another was approved by

legislators and signed by Rossello earlier this week.

The differences emerged after Puerto Rican legislators failed to repeal a law that affords protections to workers who might have been unfairly dismissed. The board has said the measure was needed to help attract investors and that if it was repealed, it would not slash vacation and sick days or eliminate a yearly Christmas bonus for government employees as part

of its austerity measures.

Rossello had promised the board that the law would be repealed and convened a special legislative session Tuesday, but senators shot down the measure for a second time.

As a result, the board approved a budget that eliminates a \$50 million annual fund for cities and towns still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and scraps a \$25 million annual scholarship fund for

students at Puerto Rico's largest public university, which was hit with a spike in tuition.

The board said in a brief statement that it approved a budget compliant with a recently revised fiscal plan, which contains several austerity measures.

"The (board) will vigorously defend against any suit attempting to thwart the carrying out of the budget and fiscal plan," it said.

It is unclear when the issue could be resolved, but Puerto Rico economist Gustavo Velez told The Associated Press that the delay will have consequences on the island's ability to recover from its economic and financial crisis.

"It creates uncertainty," he said. "It makes it less likely that new investment will arrive and that we return to the capital markets."

Velez said repealing the labor law would not have much of an impact on Puerto Rico's economy despite what the board says, and that neither budget will help resolve the crisis.

"There's still an excess of spending," he said. "It's not in tune with Puerto Rico's fiscal reality, and it doesn't address the payment of debt." □

University becomes refuge in Nicaragua unrest

By **ESTEBAN FELIX**

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Where they once arranged their lives around a class schedule, students at the Autonomous University of Nicaragua now organize themselves around watch schedules, always keeping an eye on their adversaries: the Nicaraguan government and allied youth groups.

Students have barricaded themselves inside their school, stacking desks to limit access points to buildings.

They say it's the only place they feel safe and they've been joined by students from other schools.

"We prefer to stay here. We feel safer than in the



In this June 9, 2018 photo, a university student poses by a wall decorated with a poem by Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario at the Autonomous University of Nicaragua in Managua.

Associated Press

streets or in our homes where they come to ter-

rorize us, kidnap us or kill us," said John Cerna, a

student from the National Engineering University

who carries a scar on his left temple where a bullet grazed him.

The conflict began in mid-April when protesters were attacked for marching against cuts to social security pensions.

Students responded en masse and they have continued blockading streets and marching against the government for more than two months.

The government dismisses them as delinquents and says police have to respond when students disrupt traffic.

Historically many students, some of them members of President Daniel Ortega's Sandinista Front, have been supporters of the leftist government. □

LOCAL



CBA's Economic Forecast Monitor (EFM)

ORANJESTAD — The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) has published an update of the Economic Forecast Monitor (EFM) on its website. The EFM provides an overview of both local and global economic forecasts by different institutions. This update also includes the local forecasts earlier published in the CBA's Economic Outlook. A summary of the forecasts is presented below.

For 2018, economic output is projected to edge up by 0.3% (in real terms), significantly lower compared to the previous estimation, which is mainly due to limited business investments and oil-refinery related activities. Nevertheless, 2018 will be the second year of positive growth, after an estimated 1.2% growth in 2017. The current forecast, however, does not take into account the (in-)direct effects of the new tax levies, and is thus subject to downside risks.

A further increase in tourism activities is forecasted, driven by a continuing growth in the number of visitors from the United States. The tourism sector will remain the engine of growth with forecasted expansions in tourism receipts (+2.4%) and in the number of stay-over visitors (+0.3%). Tourism receipts are expected to grow significantly in the first quarter of 2018, and to remain positive in the remaining quarters of the year (Chart).



Nevertheless, the CBA expects a slight fall in tourism arrivals in the second and third quarter of 2018. Private consumption is projected to remain at the same level of 2017 in real terms, while private investment is estimated to fall by 0.3%. On the international front, the current forecasting trend indicates that financial institutions are fractionally more optimistic with respect to the economic developments in the

United States and the euro area. The 2018 outlook on both real GDP growth and unemployment rates are more favorable compared to three months ago.

Especially the prospects of the Dutch economy are currently high. In both the United States and the euro area, real GDP growth rates in 2019 are expected to be a little bit lower compared to 2018 while the unemployment rates probably will continue to

decline. Inflation will likely linger around the 2% mark which is considered moderate. The viewpoint on the euro exchange rate is a slight appreciation in the coming 16 months to approximately 1.29 dollar at the end of 2019.

The assessments for the Latin American economies are generally positive with for most countries expected GDP-growth rates between 2% and 4% in 2018 and

2019 and rates of inflation that will remain below 5%. Notable negative exceptions are Venezuela and Argentina. The Caribbean economies are projected to grow by 3.1% in 2018 and 2019 with an average inflation rate slightly below the 4% mark. Oil prices are forecasted to increase to an average of US\$ 61 per barrel in 2019. In addition, the price of gold is expected to increase to about US\$ 1,336 per troy ounce. □

Selected GDP and commodity price forecasts (2017-2019)

Indicator	2017	2018	2019
Real GDP (growth rate)			
Aruba	1.2	0.3	n.a.
Caribbean	2.7	3.1	3.1
Latin America	1.3	2.2	2.6
World	3.8	3.6	3.6
United States	2.3	2.7	2.4
Euro area	2.4	2.2	1.9
Commodity prices (average)			
Oil price (WTI, US\$/barrel)	51	62	61
Gold price (US\$/oz)	1,258	1,300	1,336

2017: actual data (except GDP Aruba); 2018-2019: forecasts



The National Artisan Seal of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Craftsmanship is the living example of man and woman with value and ability, capable of uniting a variety of expressions and collect the community's feelings through their skills. Aruba's Culture Department together with The National Artisan Seal of Aruba extends an invitation to all

craftsmanship lovers who have new art without the national seal to come and get their artworks sealed.

On July 13 the next evaluation will take place. The Commission will come together to go over the needed criteria's that the products got to have to get The National Artisan Seal of

Aruba. The National Artisan Seal of Aruba promotes and propels the local artisanal product and supports artisans in doing so.

Don't miss the chance to get your artworks and craftsmanship's sealed with The National Artisan Seal of Aruba. All sealed products will be able to go up for sale at the 'Cosecha Aruba' store. The National Artisan Seal of Aruba promotes and certifies our local products. Creativity is a big part of art, who knows you could be the next certified craftsman. Aruba's Culture Department hopes that more craftsmen's can use this wonderful opportunity.

For more information please visit the Facebook page 'Seyo Nacional pa Artesania Aruba'. □



Delicious food, music & art at The Renaissance Marketplace Food Festival this Saturday



ORANJESTAD — This Saturday, food lovers of succulent dishes are meeting at The Renaissance Marketplace. It's Food Festival day! Join the fun at the Renaissance Marketplace Food Festival starting from

6.00 pm and enjoy international dishes and naturally our local delights.

Besides this expand your horizon and admire the art created by our local artists. They will be expos-



ing exclusive art pieces and also handmade jewelry. There will be music from a DJ and also live presentation on the principal stage in front of Cafe The Plaza and also on the stage in front of Casa Tua.

Walk, relax and enjoy of a nice evening with culinary accent. Try different dishes from different locations and experience 'live cooking' and many different 'tastings'. Renaissance Market-

place combines the experience of an open air plaza with a culinary accent.

During the day it vibrates with a large variation of stores to shop from and it offers the opportunity to enjoy a breakfast or lunch. More in the evening and night the plaza has live entertainment and different restaurants that offer local dishes but also international dishes creating a fantastic fusion for a night full of enjoyments. Renaissance Marketplace invites you to come and enjoy this tremendous Food Festival this Saturday. □

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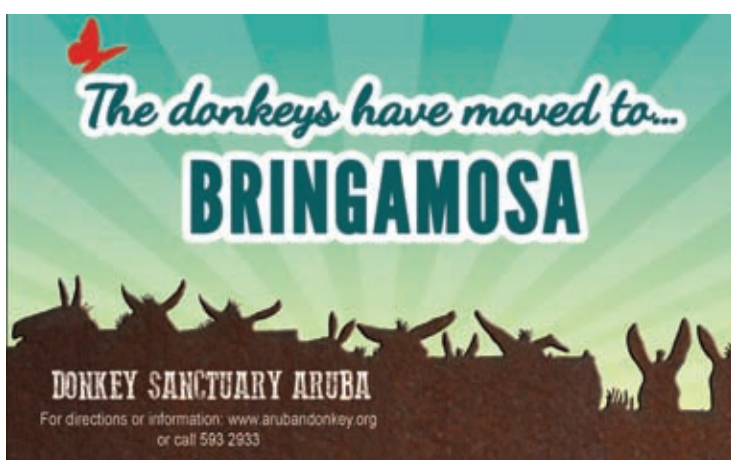
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Audrey treats guests at Salt & Pepper to home-made 4th of July cookies

PALMBEACH — Dear Audrey, many congratulations on the 4th of July! This lovely lady is Salt & Pepper's most-loved guest and she knows it. On July 4th she traditionally treats everyone to home-made cookies, preferably in the colors of America's star-spangled flag, dressed in a red-white-and-blue outfit.

Audrey is a fixture at Salt & Pepper in the Arawak Garden - you can find her there on 300 days of the year - during the remaining 60 days she is visiting family and friends. And most of these friends are people whom she met while having breakfast at Salt & Pepper! So come and say hello to Audrey in the morning and you will get a fierce hug. "Everyone needs a hug a day", is one of her sayings.

Masha pabien, Audrey and all visitors from the USA! ☐



Music and Laughter for a Good Cause

PALM BEACH — A night of music and comedy is presented to you this coming Sunday by high level artists. Jorgen Raymann and Tony Woods will take care of the laughing part as these stand-up comedians will take your stress away. The musical touch comes from Trijntje Oosterhuis, Dutch singer and song writer who is well-known

for her deep soul voice. It gets even better with the fact that every ticket that is sold counts for \$5 help to the Micky's Foundation, committed to offer free of charge pediatric therapy for children with physical and mental disabilities. Don't miss this amazing night at the ballroom of the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino.



Performances will be in English and Dutch and the show starts at 8.30 PM. Jorgen Raymann is a Dutch-Surinamese stand-up comedian, actor and presenter. Although he was born in the Netherlands, he grew up in Surinam. Since 1999 Raymann has been active on Dutch television, running his own show and performing in theatres. Since 2005, he has been UNICEF ambassador like Oosterhuis. In 2007 he started the project Further Learning Than Your Nose Is Long and he is active in the art sector as well as in the peace organization IKV Pax Christi.

Tony Woods is a one-of-a-kind comedic legend that is always in control of his audience. A seasoned veteran in the comedy business and recognized not only by fans, but by

his peers as one of the best and most engaging comedians in the business. Woods has strong followers in the US, UK, Australia and Europe.

Trijntje Oosterhuis is a Dutch singer and songwriter who has a long record of hits and successes. She had her own band Total Touch together with her brother Tjeerd. She toured with sax player Candy Dulfer in the late nineties and beginning of 2001 she decided to launch her solo career, focusing more on jazz. She released several successful albums and finally became member of the Ladies of Soul, a supergroup with big talents. Late 2017 she left the group and released the Dutch album Leven van de Liefde.

More information: Facebook Micky's Foundation Aruba. ☐



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Aruba Hi-Winds Action Packed Weekend



PALMBEACH — This weekend the Aruba Hi-Winds will be filled with action, windsurfers and kite boarders alike will start with their competitions and will do (four/five) long distance races. And in the meantime, kite surfers will battle it out on Sunday afternoon in front of the Fisherman's Huts for our discipline the Windparken Aruba Big Air competition! The competitors will try to make their highest jump and it will be measured electronically with a WOO system!

Aruba Hi-Winds is not only a sport feast, but it also means musical entertainment: DJ's and live bands will perform on weekend nights, such as Full Chemistry H2, Caribbean band a DJ CJ performing on Friday.

On Saturday 8: DJ Chase, Travel Session, Chemistry H3 and Dj Kash and on Sunday 9: Dj bigrig, Kawura, Tsunami, Honeypot and DJ Nutzbeat will be performing at Aruba Hi-Winds.

Together with the Aruba Hi-Winds committee members, the organizers of the event, Ellen Reijnen and Larissa Wiering, have worked hard to put together a great event. They are inviting everyone who loves sun, sea, watersports, cold beer and live entertainment to write down the Aruba Hi-Winds at Fishermen's Huts (July 3 till 9) in their agendas to be sure not to miss it.

Further information to be found on www.hiwindsaruba.com □



SPORTS



Simpson's 9-under 61 Leads PGA event in West Virginia

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP) — Webb Simpson ran out of sensational shots in the end to keep him from joining an elite group.

Simpson shot a 9-under-par 61 for a one-stroke lead over Whee Kim after the first round of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier in West Virginia on Thursday. Simpson posted his best career score after shaking off a two-hour weather delay with six holes left in his round. He came up short in his bid to shoot the eighth sub-60 round on the PGA Tour. Needing birdies on the par-5 17th and the par-3 18th for a 59, he parred both.

"I knew a 59 was in there, but it's all right," Simpson said. "Great start. Scores were good though, so you've got to keep the pedal down."

Kim had back-to-back bogeys on the front nine on the Old White TPC, and then ran off five birdies over a seven-hole stretch. The South Korean had 10 birdies overall and shot 62. Teenager Joaquin Niemann of Chile was another stroke back at 7-under 63.

Kelly Kraft shot 64 while Jason Kokrak, Keegan Bradley and J.J. Henry were at 65.

Playing in the afternoon, Simpson had three consecutive birdies around the turn, then chipped in for eagle on the par-5 12th to move to 7 under. A few minutes later, the horn sounded stopping play just as he was hitting his tee shot on the par-4 13th. The shot landed on a hillside.

Continued on Page 22

GONE-CARLO



Stanton goes deep in win over the Braves

New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton tosses his bat after connecting for a three-run home run against the Atlanta Braves during the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in New York. Associated Press



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'17 champ Muguruza, finalist Cilic out in Wimbledon upsets

By HOWARD FENDRICH

LONDON (AP) — Garbine Muguruza insisted she wasn't thinking about attempting to collect a second consecutive Wimbledon championship. She was adamant that she was not focusing on defending her title.

"It doesn't really matter," she would say, "what happened in 2017."

Well, it seems safe to say she'll really want to forget what happened at the All England Club in 2018. Muguruza was stunned in the second round 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 by 47th-ranked Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium on Thursday, the latest upset in a series of them at the grass-court major tournament.

"It's a little bit sad," Muguruza said. "But today didn't go my way."

That's become a familiar refrain for prominent women at this topsy-turvy Wimbledon.

Only two of the top eight seeded women are still in the field after four days of action.

Van Uytvanck, meanwhile, began this week with a 1-4 record at Wimbledon and only one Grand Slam quarterfinal appearance to her name. Muguruza, meanwhile, owns two major titles, including the 2016 French Open, and was the runner-up at the All England Club in 2015.

But that didn't matter on this day.

Van Uytvanck was aggressive from the baseline, compiling a 29-18 advantage in winners, and broke in seven of Muguruza's 13 service games. Still, it was not easy finishing off the



Spain's Garbine Muguruza falls trying to return the ball to Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium, during their women's singles match, on the fourth day at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday July 5, 2018.

Associated Press

most significant victory of her career.

"Inside," the 24-year-old Belgian said, "I was, like, dying."

The No. 3-seeded Muguruza joined No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki, No. 4 Sloane Stephens, No. 5 Elina Svitolina, No. 6 Caroline Garcia and No. 8 Petra Kvitova on the way out so far, along with five-time major champion Maria Sharapova. Those departures leave No. 1 Simona Halep, the French Open champion who won in straight sets Thursday, and No. 7 Karolina Pliskova in the field, along with seven-time Wimbledon cham-

pion Serena Williams, who is seeded 25th, and five-time champ Venus Williams, who is No. 9.

"I mean, anyone, on a good day, can beat anyone," Van Uytvanck said. "That's what I think. I still think the top players, their average level is higher than, let's say, sub-top players. But anyone on a good day can beat anyone, for sure." Sure seems that way, particularly this week.

Among the men, too. Resumes and past performances do not matter. At all.

Marin Cilic, for example, entered his second-round

match with all sorts of advantages in experience and success over his opponent, including a runner-up finish at the All England Club a year ago and a U.S. Open title in 2014.

So when Cilic took a two-sets-to-none lead against a guy who began the week with records of 0-2 at Wimbledon and 6-15 at all majors, it appeared the No. 3 seed was on his way to a straightforward victory and a step closer to a potential semifinal rematch against defending champion Roger Federer.

Hold that thought. The outcome that seemed obvi-

ous vanished, and Cilic is gone, giving away a big edge in a 3-6, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-5 loss to 82nd-ranked Guido Pella of Argentina in a match completed Thursday after being suspended midway through the third set because of rain the evening before.

"A big surprise," Pella said. Cilic called it a "big disappointment."

"Just didn't feel so good. I was not as accurate as yesterday," he said. "I was just missing some balls, giving him chance to keep playing."

His exit means the highest-seeded man No. 1 Federer possibly could face before the final as he bids for a record-extending ninth Wimbledon title would be No. 8 Kevin Anderson or No. 9 John Isner. They're two of the tour's biggest servers, and both won contests carried over from Wednesday. Isner hit 64 aces and saved two match points in his victory. In another suspended match, three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka lost to qualifier Thomas Fabbiano of Italy.

On the other half of the draw, two past champions, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, both advanced in straight sets. Not all went smoothly for Djokovic, though: He was visited by a trainer after feeling pain in his left knee over the last couple of games because of what he termed "a bad move" during a point.

"It seems like it's nothing major. Hopefully, tomorrow I'll see @ the practice session how it feels," the 12-time major champion said. "Hopefully it's going to be fine." □

Stanton, Sabathia lead Yankees to 6-2 win over Braves

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer and CC Sabathia pitched six effective innings, leading the Yankees to the victory.

Yankees rookie second baseman Gleyber Torres left in the fifth inning because of tightness in his right hip and was placed on the 10-day disabled list with a right hip strain.

Aaron Judge and Kyle Higashioka also homered for New York. Higashioka became the ninth player since 1920 whose first three hits were home runs.

Sabathia (6-3) yielded two runs and five hits.

Atlanta starter Julio Teheran (6-6) lasted just five innings, allowing five runs and five hits. He struck out 10 and walked four.

ASTROS 5, RANGERS 4, 10 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Evan Gattis drove in Jose Altuve with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, sending AL West-leading Houston to the road win.

Altuve stopped a 0-for-13 slide with a one-out single in the 10th. Chris Martin (1-2) then hit Yuli Gurriel with a pitch before an errant pickoff throw allowed both runners to move up. Gattis followed with a fly ball to right-center.

Gurriel homered, doubled and scored twice as the Astros overcame an



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia delivers against the Atlanta Braves during the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

early four-run deficit. Colin McHugh (4-0) pitched three scoreless innings, and Ken Giles got three outs for his 12th save.

Texas' Shin-Soo Choo homered and singled to extend his on-base streak to 44 games, the longest in his career and in the majors this season.

ATHLETICS 4, PADRES 2 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Piscotty doubled three times and drove in three runs, powering Oak-

land to the win.

Khris Davis added an RBI single for the A's, who have won 14 of 17 to move a season-high nine games over .500.

Lou Trivino (7-1) retired two batters for the win. Blake Treinen pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Christian Villanueva hit his 17th home run for San Diego. Jose Castillo (1-2) got the loss.

METS 6, BLUE JAYS 2 TORONTO (AP) — Todd

Frazier hit a two-run homer for the Mets, and Brandon Nimmo reached base three times.

Frazier gave the Mets the lead with a drive to center field off Marcus Stroman (1-6) in a five-run fifth inning. Seth Lugo (3-3) pitched three innings for the win. Jeurys Familia earned his 16th save in 20 opportunities.

Wilmer Flores had two hits for the Mets, who had lost 11 of 13.

Kendrys Morales homered for Toronto. Stroman was tagged for six runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

ANGELS 7, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer, helping the Angels snap the Mariners' eight-game winning streak.

Calhoun had three hits and three RBIs. Garrett Richards (5-4) got the win in his return from the disabled list, allowing three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Kyle Seager and Ryon Healy homered for Seattle. Mike Leake (8-5) surrendered four runs and nine hits in four-plus innings.

Blake Parker pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his 10th save.

INDIANS 3, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Trevor Bauer pitched effectively into the eighth inning, and Cleveland finished a three-game sweep.

Michael Brantley had an early RBI double and the Indians scored all their runs in the first three innings on only one hit. Bauer (8-6) struck out eight in 7 2/3 innings.

The plummeting Royals have lost six straight and 18 of 21. Trevor Oaks (0-2), recalled from Triple-A Omaha to take Ian Kennedy's spot in the rotation, allowed three runs in four innings.

Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances. □

LHP LeBlanc could earn \$31.3M over 4 years with Mariners

SEATTLE (AP) — Pitcher Wade LeBlanc is guaranteed \$2.75 million under a new contract with the Seattle Mariners covering 2019, a deal with three options that would be worth \$31.3 million over four years if he pitches 180 innings or more each season.

A left-hander who turns 34 next month, LeBlanc gets a \$300,000 signing bonus and a \$2 million salary next year under the deal announced Tuesday. Seattle has \$5 million options for 2020, 2021 and 2022 that could become guaranteed, each with a \$450,000 buyout.



Seattle Mariners starter Wade LeBlanc delivers a pitch during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in Seattle. The Mariners won 4-1.

Associated Press

His 2020 salary would become guaranteed if he pitches 160 innings in 2019, and the 2021 and '22 options would become guaranteed if he pitches 160 innings in the previous season or 310 innings in the two previous seasons combined. The options would become guaranteed only if he does not have an injury to his left arm. LeBlanc could earn \$2 million annually in performance bonuses based on innings: \$100,000 each for 90 and 100, \$150,000 apiece for 110 and 120, \$200,000 each for 130 and 140, \$250,000 apiece for

150 and 160, and \$300,000 each for 170 and 180. His following season's salary would escalate by the total of any performance bonuses earned. He would have been eligible for salary arbitration next winter and for free agency after the 2020 World Series. LeBlanc is 4-0 with a 3.19 ERA in 12 starts and five relief appearances this season, leaving his career record at 34-35 in 10 big league seasons. He is with his eighth big league organization, signing with Seattle late in spring training following his release by the New York Yankees. □



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Red Sox sweep slumping Nationals with 3-0 win

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jackie Bradley Jr. drove in two runs, Eduardo Rodriguez struck out six in six innings and the Boston Red Sox beat the Washington Nationals 3-0 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Rodriguez (10-3) allowed three hits and walked one. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 26th save in 28 chances, finishing a six-hitter.

The Nationals (42-43) have lost five in a row to fall below .500 this late in the season for the first time since being 60-61 on Aug. 21, 2015. The preseason NL East favorites held a players-only meeting after the game. A throwing error by Adam Eaton on Bradley's sacrifice fly and a wild pitch by Ryan Madson (2-4) in the seventh inning contributed to Washington's 17th loss in 22 games.

Nationals starter Erick Fedde left one batter into the second inning with right shoulder stiffness. Manager Davey Martinez said Fedde was scheduled to have an MRI.

CARDINALS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 4

PHOENIX (AP) — Yadier Molina and Yairo Munoz homered, Miles Mikolas threw six strong innings and St. Louis broke loose late to beat Arizona and take two of three from the first-place Diamondbacks.

Molina's three-run shot on the first pitch from reliever Fernando Salas highlighted a five-run seventh inning after Arizona had nursed a

2-1 lead through six. Tommy Pham drove in three Cardinals runs with a double and two singles.

The Diamondbacks dropped to 1-5 on their homestand and lead the surging Dodgers by just a half-game in the NL West. Mikolas (9-3) gave up two runs, seven hits and four walks.

Arizona reliever Yoshihisa Hirano (2-1) had his franchise-record streak of 26 games without allowing a run end when Munoz homered on the first pitch of the seventh. Hirano gave up four runs, one earned, on three hits in two-thirds of an inning for his first loss since coming to the major leagues from Japan this season.

DODGERS 6, PIRATES 4

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rich Hill earned his first win in three months, Yasmani Grandal and Chris Taylor drove in three runs apiece, and the Dodgers swept the Pirates for the second straight year.

The Dodgers outscored the Pirates 31-8 in the three-game series while winning their fourth in a row overall. Hill (2-3) allowed two runs in five innings for his first victory since April 1. Kenley Jansen earned a five-out save, his 23rd of the season.

Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh. Clay Holmes (0-1) was charged with four runs in 2 1/3 innings in his first major league start.

CUBS 5, TIGERS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Javier Baez stole home, Willson Contreras hit a tiebreak-



Boston Red Sox' Rafael Devers, left, slides home past Washington Nationals catcher Pedro Severino to score on a sacrifice fly by Jackie Bradley Jr., during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

ing homer and the Cubs earned their sixth straight victory.

Conditions at Wrigley Field favored the long ball, with a game-time temperature of 92 degrees, a heat index of 102 and the wind blowing out.

David Bote also connected for Chicago. Jose Quintana (7-6) pitched six effective innings in his first win since May 31, and Brandon Morrow got three outs for his 19th save.

Nicholas Castellanos and John Hicks went deep for Detroit, which has dropped 13 of 15. Francisco Liriano (3-5) permitted three runs in six innings.

PHILLIES 4, ORIOLES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Aaron Nola stuck out nine in seven innings, Nick Williams

hit a two-run homer and the Phillies beat the Orioles to sweep a two-game interleague series.

Nola (11-2) gave up one run and seven hits to win his fifth straight decision. Victor Arano tossed two innings for his first career save.

Philadelphia pulled within 1 1/2 games of NL East-leading Atlanta and improved 10 games over .500 for the first time since finishing the 2011 season with a franchise-record 102 wins.

Orioles right-hander Yefry Ramirez (0-2) gave up two runs — one earned — and one hit in five innings.

BREWERS 3, TWINS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Nate Orf hit a solo homer in Milwaukee's two-run seventh after going hitless in his first seven major league at-

bats.

Brad Miller homered to right-center off Jose Berrios (8-7) to lead off the bottom of the seventh for the Brewers. Two batters later, Orf sent a 2-2 curveball down the left-field line for a two-run lead.

Jeremy Jeffress (6-1) picked up the win despite allowing inherited runner Brian Dozier to score from third on Jorge Polanco's bloop single to left for a 1-all tie in the top of the seventh.

Corey Knebel worked a rocky ninth for his 10th save. Eduardo Escobar hit his 13th homer and Jorge Polanco singled with two out, but Max Kepler flied to left to end the game.

Knebel was helped by a sparkling defensive play from Keon Broxton. □

Semenya finishes 6th in Lausanne as Houlihan wins 1,500

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Caster Semenya failed to hit the heights of the last time she competed in a 1,500-meter race as she finished sixth in a Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, just a stone's throw away from where her legal battle over the IAAF's female classification regulations will be fought at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The race on Thursday was won by Shelby Houlihan of the United States, who ran a personal best of 3 minutes, 57.34 seconds to beat Britain's Laura Muir, who clocked a season best of 3:58.18.

Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands was third in 3:58.39.

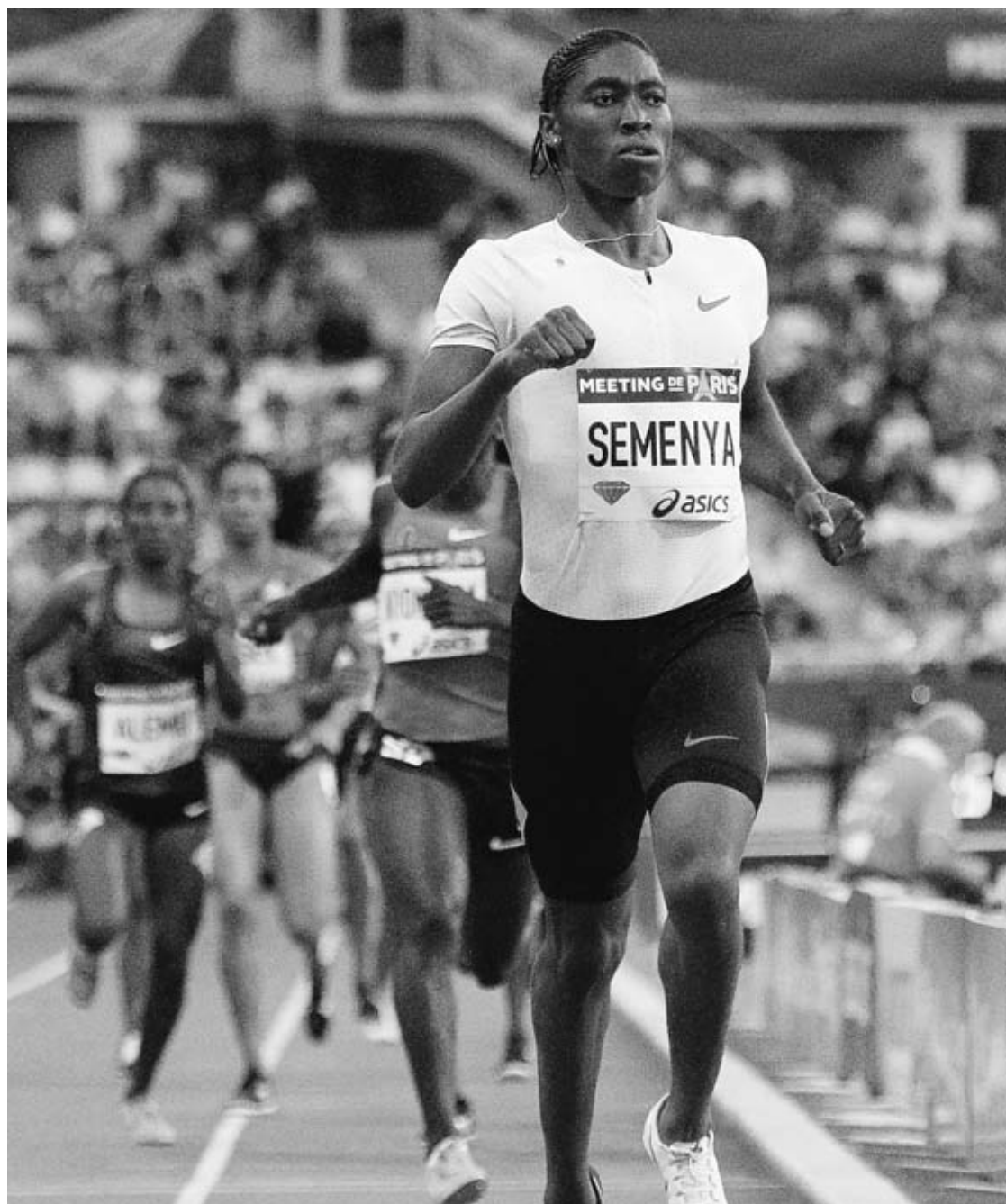
Semenya, who set a South African national record of 3:59.92 in Doha in May, was more than three seconds slower than Houlihan, with a time of 4:00.44.

The IAAF has ruled female runners too high in natural testosterone can't race in track events from the 400 to the mile unless they take medication. It comes into effect in November, but Semenya has challenged the rule at CAS.

Semenya won the 800 meters in Paris last week with a national record. In her absence, Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi — who was second in Paris — triumphed in 1:57.80, beating American Ajee Wilson and Ethiopian Habitam Alemu.

Elsewhere, Abderrahman Samba of Qatar won his sixth successive 400 hurdles with a time of 47.42, edging out world champion Karsten Warholm and Yasmani Copello.

It was an American one-



Caster Semenya of South Africa competes to win the Women's 800m at the IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting at Charlety Stadium, in Paris, France, Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Associated Press

two in the men's 200 with Noah Lyles running a personal best and world-leading 19.69 to edge out Michael Norman. Alex Quiñonez of Ecuador was third. World and Olympic champion Christian Taylor of the U.S. narrowly won the triple jump with a leap of 17.62 meters, just one centimeter further than Portuguese

rival Pedro Pablo Pichardo. American Chris Benard was third with 16.92.

In the women's 400 hurdles, American Shamier Little clocked 53.41 to narrowly beat Janieve Russell despite the Jamaican running a personal best of 53.46. Georganne Moline was third in 53.90, ahead of Olympic champion and

fellow American Dalilah Muhammad.

Another American, Gabrielle Thomas, won the women's 200.

Sergey Shubenkov, the 2015 world champion, bounced back from the disappointment of disqualification in Paris to win the 110 hurdles in 12.95. American Devon Allen was sec-

ond in 13.29, 0.01 ahead of Pascal Martinot-Lagarde.

World 100 and 200 silver medalist Marie-Josée Ta Lou of the Ivory Coast won the women's 100, edging out Jamaican Elaine Thompson — the Olympic champion in both disciplines. American Jenna Prandini was third, just ahead of double world 200 champion Dafne Schippers.

Birhanu Balew, who was born in Ethiopia but represents Bahrain, won the men's 5,000 with a personal best and world leading 13:01.09. Eight of the nine top finishers ran season bests or personal bests.

In the women's 400, Bahrain's 20-year-old Salwa Nasser beat Americans Jessica Beard and Shakima Wimbley.

In the absence of world high jump champion Mutaz Essa Barshim through injury, Danil Lysenko triumphed with a season-best 2.37, ahead of Australian Brandon Stark and American Jeron Robinson, who both jumped 2.29.

Olympic and world champion Katerina Stefanidi of Greece won the women's pole jump ahead of American Jennifer Suhr and Anzhelika Sidorova. All three cleared 4.82 but Stefanidi did so on her first attempt.

Other winners included New Zealand's world shot put champion Tom Walsh, Malaika Mihambo of Germany in the women's long jump, and Nikola Ogrodnikova of the Czech Republic in the women's javelin.

Switzerland won the women's 4x100 relay with a national record of 42.29. □

WEST VIRGINIA

Continued from Page 18

"Momentum is a funny thing, but I should feel good when I got back out there," Simpson said during the delay. After play resumed, Simpson's pitch from the hill went across the 13th fairway into tall fescue. His approach shot landed 3 feet from the pin and he escaped with par. He added birdies on the par-4 14th and 16th holes.

Simpson, whose four-shot victory at The Players Championship in May was his first win in more than four years, has seen his share of chances in West Virginia before. He finished third in 2014 and lost a one-stroke lead on the back nine in the final round in 2011 and 2012. He's got several youngsters chasing him.

The 26-year-old Kim has never won on the PGA Tour, losing in a three-way

playoff in Las Vegas in November.

The 19-year-old Niemann had his lowest score in nine PGA Tour starts this season. Niemann played in this tournament a year ago as an amateur, shot 64 in the final round and tied for 29th place.

"I'm one of the youngest out here so I feel like I've got nothing to lose," Niemann said. "My game was feeling really good and my

putter was good. So all my game was good today." Defending champion Xander Schauffele was among a large group at 4-under 66. That also includes Phil Mickelson, playing in his first tournament since the U.S. Open, when he intentionally violated golf rules by hitting a moving ball on the 13th green in the third round. He later apologized, saying his anger and frustration got the best of

him.

Mickelson missed the cut at The Greenbrier in three of his four previous appearances.

Bubba Watson, starting on the back nine, jammed his wrist on a bunker shot on No. 11. He finished the round and shot 2-under 68. "It was one of those things where it stung, but I knew it would loosen up over time," he said. "Once you make a birdie, it's good." □

Van Garderen embraces No. 2 role for team at Tour de France

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

LA ROCHE-SUR-YON, France (AP) — For years, Tejay van Garderen has been the United States' best hope of winning the Tour de France.

But for this edition of the world's biggest cycling race, Van Garderen is tasked with doing all he can for teammate Richie Porte to fight for the title. "It's different. It's certainly less pressure, and when you have a leader like Richie it's a role that is easy to jump into," Van Garderen said on Thursday, two days before the race starts in western France.

Van Garderen's first job will be to do his part on the team time trial on Stage 3. A good result by BMC would boost Porte's chances of ending Chris Froome's dominance at the Tour. His next challenge as his

team's No. 2 will be to protect Porte on the climbs in the Alps and Pyrenees where only the hardest riders can keep up.

Van Garderen, who finished the Tour of California second in May, showed he can protect Porte in the mountains when he helped the Australian win the Tour de Suisse last month by reeling in rivals when they attacked.

"He already performed well in that role, especially in the Tour de Suisse, when (Mikel) Landa and (Nairo) Quintana launched attacks," BMC sports director Fabio Baldato told The Associated Press. "It's a new role but he's well established within the team." When acting as BMC's leader, Van Garderen finished the Tour in fifth place in 2012 and 2014.

In 2015, he was riding in third place and aiming for a spot on the podium in

Paris when he fell ill and was forced to withdraw.

Those ascending results generated expectations that Van Garderen could one day become the first American to cleanly win the Tour since Greg LeMond in 1989 and 1990. Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis were later stripped of their Tour titles for having doped.

But when Porte joined BMC in 2016, the American team said Porte and Van Garderen were the co-leaders at the Tour. Porte finished a career-best fifth in the race, while Van Garderen was 29th. Van Garderen skipped last year's Tour to ride in the Giro d'Italia.

Baldato said it was the 29-year-old Van Garderen who wanted to play wingman this time around.

"He asked to come to the Tour as a support rider. We call him a teammate



In this July 26, 2014, file photo, Tejay van Garderen of the U.S. concentrates prior to the start of the 20th stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Bergerac, France.

Associated Press

'di lusso' (an extra special teammate)," Baldato told The AP. "The pressure that came with being the leader wasn't easy to handle. Now that he's free of that pressure he's got less weight on his shoulders.

"It will free his mind up and make him ride better."

Porte knows what it means to be a shield-bearer. He was Froome's ally when he won his first two Tour titles in 2013 and 2015 for Team Sky.

At 33, Porte also knows this

may be his last chance to win an elusive Grand Tour. Last year he was in contention for the Tour until he crashed out.

When asked if he would be prepared to take over if Porte again falters, Van Garderen replied with a curt, "I will do what I am told."

"(Porte) is in great shape and he has a good shot to get on the podium in Paris and I am looking forward to helping him to be able to do that." □

AP source: Blue Jackets give Jenner 4-year, \$15M contract

By MITCH STACY
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus Blue Jackets re-signed forward Boone Jenner to a four-year, \$15 million contract, locking up a player who has been a stalwart presence in the team's emergence as a playoff contender.

The Blue Jackets announced the deal on Thursday. The contract pays the 25-year-old Jenner \$3.75 million annually through the 2021-22 season, according to a person with direct knowledge of the contract who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Blue Jackets didn't reveal the value of the deal.

Jenner was a restricted free agent who made \$2.9 million in 2017-18, a season in which he missed all of training camp and the first seven games of the season with a back injury.

Although his numbers have fallen off since he scored 30 goals in 2015-16, Jenner



In this Jan. 25, 2018, file photo, Columbus Blue Jackets center Boone Jenner skates with the puck against the Arizona Coyotes during the first period of an NHL hockey game, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

was an alternate captain and key contributor down the stretch last season, which ended in a first-round playoff loss to the eventual Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals. The native of Dorchester, On-

tario, said he was happy to get the four-year deal after starting his NHL career with the Blue Jackets.

He'll likely be the left wing on the second or third line. "Being there for five years, I knew that's where I want-

ed to be, especially with the team we've got and the way things are going and what we're building," he said.

"It's something I've been a part of and want to continue to be a part of."

He ended last season with 13 goals and tied his career high with 19 assists. He piled up 12 points in March and logged a goal and two assists in six playoff games.

"I think once things kind of settled down later toward the end of the year, I think I found my stride, and I was obviously happy with my play down the stretch," he said.

Jenner, a second-round draft pick by Columbus in 2011, has 86 goals and 75 assists in 342 NHL games. His best season was 2015-16, when he scored 30 goals and had 19 assists.

"Boone Jenner has been an important player for the Columbus Blue Jackets with his work ethic, character and leadership on and off the ice," general manager Jarmo Kekalainen said. "He is still a young player that is improving in all facets of the game, and we couldn't be happier that he will continue to be a key contributor to our team in the years to come." □

Trust the machines? Funds run by artificial intelligence

By **ALEX VEIGA**
AP Business Writer

A computer can trounce a human chess master and solve complex mathematical calculations in seconds. Can it do a better job investing your money than a flesh-and-blood portfolio manager? Investors willing to test that question can do so with a couple of exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, that leave the investment decisions to a computer's so-called artificial intelligence, or AI.

ETF Managers Group and Ocean Capital Advisors launched an AI-powered fund last month dubbed the Rogers AI Global Macro ETF (BIKR) that invests primarily in single-country ETFs. The fund's AI sifts through millions of data points from countries around the globe and uses what it learns to determine how best to allocate the fund's holdings. (Humans carry out the trades, however.) Does this approach work? Another AI fund launched last November by ETF Managers Group and Equibot shows some promise. The fund, which is called the AI Powered Equity ETF (AEIQ), invests in a variety of U.S.-based com-



This undated photo provided by ETF Managers Group shows Sam Masucci, founder and CEO of ETF Managers Group.
Associated Press

panies and seeks to beat the returns of the S&P 500. So far, it's getting it done. The ETF is up 8.1 percent this year, while the S&P 500 has gained about 1.5 percent. Still, a track record of less than a year on a single fund isn't nearly enough to gauge the merits of the AI approach. Also, like any fund, one should weigh potential gains against the fund's fees. At 75 basis points, AEIQ's expense ratio is on the higher end of ETF

fees, even if the AI is doing all the thinking. By comparison, Schwab's US Broad Market ETF, which also invests in a broad swath of U.S. stocks, has an expense ratio of 3 basis points.

Sam Masucci, founder and CEO of ETF Managers Group, recently talked about his firm's investment funds and why an AI fund manager might prove to be better at generating investment returns than the human variety. Answers

have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: How is AI different or better than the computer algorithms used for high-speed trading or robo-advisers that can rebalance an investor's retirement portfolio?

A: It's different. If you think about algorithmic trading or robo-advisers these are tools that are used by human portfolio managers to make decisions on what to invest in. Artificial intelligence is very, very different. While there are humans that obviously are continuing to feed data into it, it's the computer, the AI environment, that is distilling that information and making the ultimate portfolio selection. In the case of AI, the portfolio manager is not looking at a trade signal and making a decision. The AI model is prescribing the action that needs to be taken, whether it's a purchase or a sell.

Q: Is AI better at picking stocks and curating funds than more conventional approaches?

A: We will find out. Theoretically, it should be better, because it has the ability to crunch a much larger uni-

verse of daily information and risk-weigh and apply it to a portfolio much faster and efficiently than humans can. In addition, the computer learns from its past actions and the result of those actions and gets smarter over time. And it removes any human bias, because it's a machine. But it's still new. We launched the first AI fund, AIEQ, in November. That fund is designed to offer S&P 500-like exposure with a better return and less volatility, and it has been doing that. And it's getting better at doing that.

Q: Can these AI funds anticipate market corrections?

A: The more predictive information you can have and analyze, the better. And I am confident machines are better at that. They have the bandwidth.

Q: Is AI going to eventually replace the active, human fund manager?

A: No. I don't think the computer is going to put us out of a job anytime soon. But it will allow us to enter into markets and offer people another portfolio solution that takes advantage of the newest technologies. □

AP Explains: How computers "see" faces and other objects

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Computers started to be able to recognize human faces in images decades ago, but now artificial intelligence systems are rivaling people's ability to classify objects in photos and videos.

That's sparking increased interest from government agencies and businesses, which are eager to bestow vision skills on all sorts of machines. Among them: self-driving cars, drones, personal robots, in-store cameras and medical scanners that can search for skin cancer. There are also our own phones, some of which can now be unlocked with a glance.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Algorithms designed to detect facial features and recognize individual faces

have grown more sophisticated since early efforts decades ago.

A common method has involved measuring facial dimensions, such as the distance between the nose and ear or from one corner of the eye to another. That information can then be broken down into numbers and matched to similar data extracted from other images. The closer they are, the better they match.

Such analysis is now aided by greater computing power and huge troves of digital imagery that can be easily stored and shared.

FROM FACES TO OBJECTS (AND PETS)

"Face recognition is an old topic. It's always been pretty good. What really got everyone's attention



In this June 21, 2018 file photo, a face recognition camera is seen at the customs entry at Orlando International Airport in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

is object recognition," says Michael Brown, a computer science professor at Toronto's York University who helps organize the annual Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition.

Research over the past

decade has focused on the development of brain-like neural networks that can automatically "learn" to recognize what's in an image by looking for patterns in big data sets. But humans continue to help make machines smarter

by labeling photos, as happens when Facebook users tag a friend.

An annual image recognition competition that lasted from 2010 to 2017 drew top researchers from companies like Google and Microsoft. Among the revelations: computers can do better than humans at distinguishing between various Welsh cori breeds, in part because they're better able to quickly absorb the knowledge it takes to make those distinctions.

But computers have been confused by more abstract forms, such as statues.

THE "CODED GAZE"

The growing use of face recognition by law enforcement has highlighted longstanding concerns about racial and gender bias. □

US stocks hold on to an early rally; Oil prices fall

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Technology companies led U.S. stocks broadly higher in afternoon trading Thursday, turning major indexes higher for the week. Health care stocks and consumer-focused companies also posted solid gains as traders returned from the Independence Day holiday. The market was rallying even as global trade tensions appeared set to ratchet up Friday, when U.S. tariffs on billions in Chinese imports were set to kick in.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index rose 20 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,733 as of 1:23 p.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 176 points, or 0.7 percent, to 24,351. The Nasdaq added 70 points, or 0.9 percent, to 7,573. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 10 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,671.

THE QUOTE: "It feels like the market is responding ... to stronger economic data and some easing of the trade tensions overnight and focusing a bit more on fundamentals and a bit less on the ongoing concerns about trade," said Christine



In this Dec. 27, 2017, file photo, a logo for the New York Stock Exchange is displayed above the trading floor.

Scalley, U.S. equity strategist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank.

U.S.-CHINA TRADE TIFF: On Friday the U.S. is set to impose a 25 percent tariff on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports. And China is expected to strike back with tariffs on a similar amount of U.S. exports. The big question is how far the two countries will go in their dispute over trade. On

Thursday in China, Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng hit back at "threats and blackmail" ahead of the planned U.S. tariff hike. He added that China would be forced to fight back to protect its own interests. Meanwhile, a German newspaper report suggested that the U.S. may propose reducing impending tariffs on auto imports from the European

Union to zero.

ECONOMIC DATA: Investors got some encouraging U.S. economic data Thursday. The Institute for Supply Management issued data indicating that U.S. service firms expanded at a surprisingly strong pace in June. Separately, Payroll processor ADP said private U.S. employers added 177,000 in June. The Labor Department is due to release its

June job and wage data Friday.

TECH RALLY: Technology stocks posted solid gains. Qorvo climbed 5.9 percent to \$81.98.

HEALTHY MOVE: Several health care sector stocks also helped lift the market. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals gained 2.4 percent to \$362.37.

CHECKERED FLAG: International Speedway added 2.2 percent to \$46.37 after the car racing and entertainment company posted earnings and revenue that came in ahead of analysts' forecasts.

TURBULENT TAKEOFF: Shares in Brazilian jet maker Embraer tumbled 10 percent to \$23.59 on news that the company will form a joint venture with Boeing that would push the U.S. aerospace giant more aggressively into the regional aircraft market. The new company has faced heavy scrutiny from lawmakers in Brazil. Boeing shares gained 0.2 percent to \$333.54.

TUNED OUT: TiVo slid 4.5 percent to \$13.23 after the digital video recorder pioneer said its CEO has resigned to pursue another opportunity. □

Associated Press

How should businesses respond to bad reviews?

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A bad review can easily damage the reputation of a small business. Failing to address negative social media and online posts could make it worse.

Yelp.com recently won a case in California where an aggrieved law firm tried to force it to remove negative posts. That, the state's supreme court ruled, would be a legal no-no.

While it's a victory for freedom-of-speech advocates, many business owners say they are vulnerable to anyone who chooses to spread falsehoods because there are no consequences for doing so.

There are several measures a business can take to respond to negative reviews

to mitigate any potential damage.

"This is something you simply can't ignore," said Columbia Business School professor Jeremy Kagan.

"The best defense is a good offense."

Here are some key points for business owners:

ASK HAPPY CUSTOMERS TO POST REVIEWS OF THEIR EXPERIENCE

It's important to be proactive and have staff ask customers to post their experience.

The offensive part of this strategy involves having a base of good reviews from happy customers.

It's even more important because people who are upset are usually more motivated, Kagan said.

That can leave a skewed picture of a business.

A solid base of good reviews will help give a potential customer a broader view.

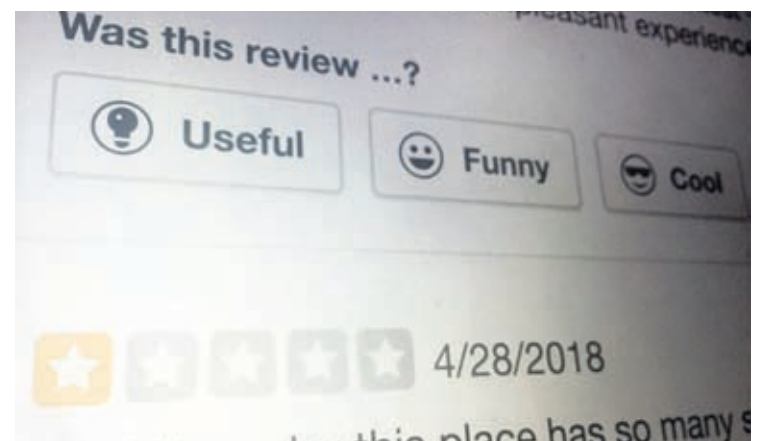
RESPOND IMMEDIATELY AND POLITELY

People want to know that the owner is professional and cares about fixing legitimate problems. Simple things, like saying "I'm very sorry you didn't enjoy" the meal or product can go a long way with potential new customers checking out your reviews.

"You will often find that you're playing to the audience, which is sort of neutral," Kagan said.

PROVIDE A FACTUAL REBUTTAL

While owners should acknowledge a person's feelings, there are some issues where a factual rebuttal is necessary. □



This photo shows an online review of a restaurant on a screen Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Portland Ore.

Associated Press




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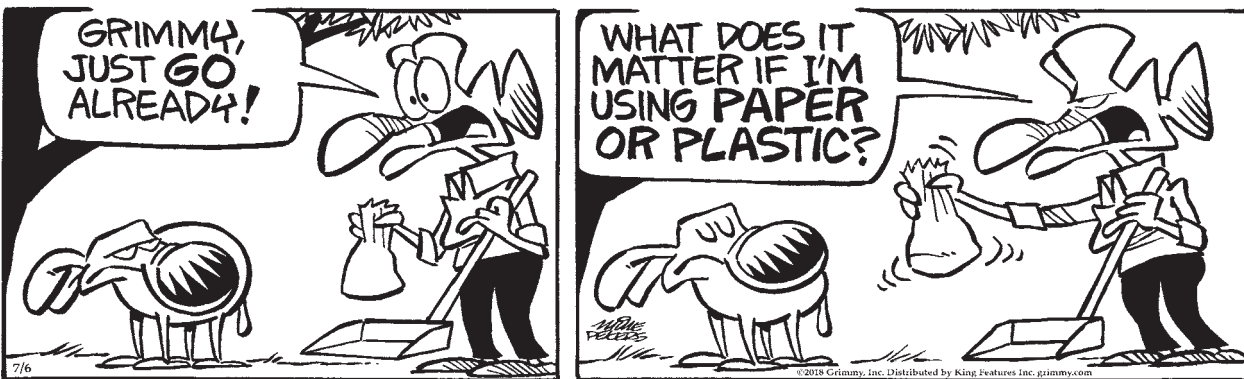
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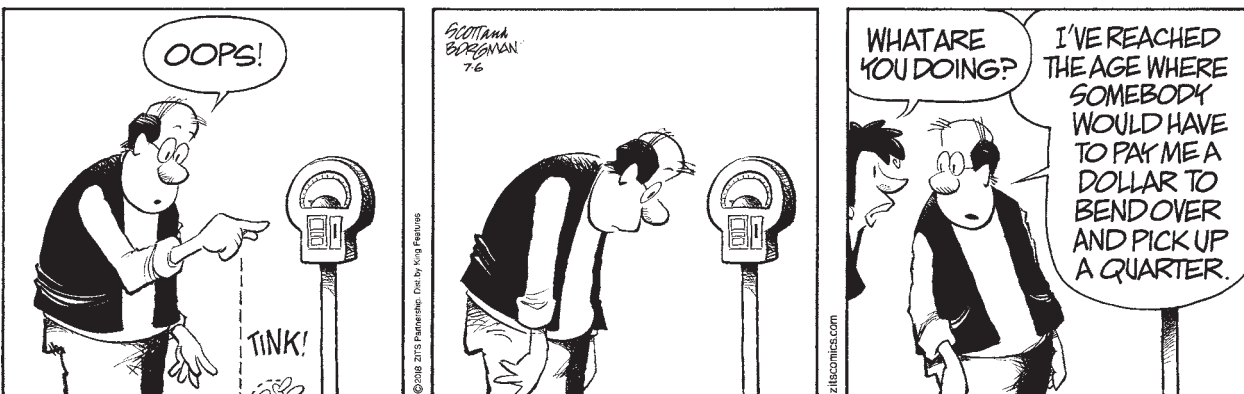
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7			1	3				
					9	3	6	
							5	
8				2			4	
3			9		4			1
	4			6				2
	6							
	2	9	8					
				4	2			3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	6	7	3	5	4	2	1	8
3	2	4	1	8	6	7	5	9
8	1	5	9	2	7	3	4	6
5	8	1	7	6	2	9	3	4
4	7	9	8	3	5	6	2	1
6	3	2	4	1	9	8	7	5
2	5	3	6	4	8	1	9	7
7	4	8	2	9	1	5	6	3
1	9	6	5	7	3	4	8	2

- ACROSS**
- 1 Affirmative
 - 4 Synagogue leader
 - 9 Storm wind
 - 13 "Been there, ___ that"
 - 14 Parisian love
 - 15 "Queen for ___" of old TV
 - 16 Craving
 - 17 Any animal with a spine
 - 19 Actress Arthur
 - 20 Queues
 - 21 Carrying a gun
 - 22 Liver or pituitary
 - 24 Prefix for pay or mature
 - 25 Asthmatic sound
 - 27 "Queen of Soul"
 - 30 Comfortable
 - 31 Crouch in fear
 - 33 Promos
 - 35 Is in the red
 - 36 Once every 24 hours
 - 37 Button alternative
 - 38 Sermon topic
 - 39 Actress Hayley
 - 40 Windowsill
 - 41 Set of moral principles
 - 43 Smiled broadly
 - 44 Bill denomination
 - 45 Sew loosely
 - 46 Sir ___ Newton
 - 49 Lower leg parts
 - 51 Presidential monogram
 - 54 Exchange letters
 - 56 Mothers of fawns
 - 57 Fraternal group
 - 58 Stove
 - 59 Holds
 - 60 Info on a pill bottle
 - 61 Lively horse
 - 62 Word attached to body or place

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13											
16											
19											
22											
25											
28											
31											
34											
37											
40											
43											
46											
49											
52											
55											
58											
61											
64											

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

7/6/18

- DOWN**
- 1 Days of ___; former times
 - 2 Betrothal
 - 3 Behold
 - 4 Steep-sided valley
 - 5 Turn over a new leaf
 - 6 Monotonous speaker
 - 7 No ifs, ands or ___
 - 8 Wrath
 - 9 Attic
 - 10 Eve's man
 - 11 Overdue
 - 12 Open-___; observant
 - 13 Give a nickname to
 - 18 Less adorned
 - 20 Like a couch potato
 - 23 Peggy and Bruce
 - 24 ___ on; victimize
 - 25 TV's "___ the Boss?"
 - 26 Mr. Mandel
 - 27 Pointed tools
 - 28 Shirt that used to be your brother's
 - 29 Saying
 - 31 Ripken Sr. and Ripken Jr.
 - 32 Cake ingredient
 - 34 Ran fast
 - 36 Yahtzee cubes
 - 37 Fanny

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

LONE	ONTOP	ELLA
ONES	SOILS	NOON
ACTS	PREDICTION	
NET	ARMS	HINTS
LYRES	TIC	
TREATY	SANEST	
RISKS	POLKA	TAP
UFOS	HOWIE	HERO
ELM	MOUNT	BARON
EEERIER	SAFETY	
ASS	PLUTO	
SPARE	SEAM	TOM
PAPER	MONEY	HYDE
AGES	ALIVE	UPON
NEST	DETER	NERD

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7/6/18

- 39 ___ pie
- 40 ___ than ideal; not the best
- 42 Like one with laryngitis
- 43 ___ together; united
- 45 Pig out
- 46 Like an eclair
- 47 Fly alone
- 48 Boats like Noah's
- 49 Quarrel
- 50 Make sharper
- 52 Declare untrue
- 53 Suffix for host or lion
- 55 Grads-to-be: abbr.
- 56 ___ double take; look twice



This July 19, 2016, file photo shows the Google logo at the company's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

Google says Google Documents is secure despite Russian issue

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Google said Thursday that its document writing tool Google Documents was secure even as Russian internet users discovered scores of files that appeared to be intended for private use.

The Russian internet company Yandex said in a statement that some users contacted the company Wednesday to say that its public search engine was yielding what looked like personal Google Documents files, suggesting there may have been a data breach.

On Wednesday night, Russian social media users started posting scores of such documents, including an internal memo from a Russian bank, press summaries and company business plans. The veracity of those documents could not be independently confirmed.

Google said in a statement that search engines can only turn up Google documents that had either been deliberately made public by its authors or when a user publishes a link to a document and makes it available for public access and search.

"Saving and protecting users' personal data is our main priority," the company said. "Google Documents is a highly protected tool for joint work and it is working correctly."

It did not elaborate.

Ilya Grabovsky, a spokesman for Yandex, said its search only yields files that don't require logins or passwords. He added that the files were also turning up in other search engines. □



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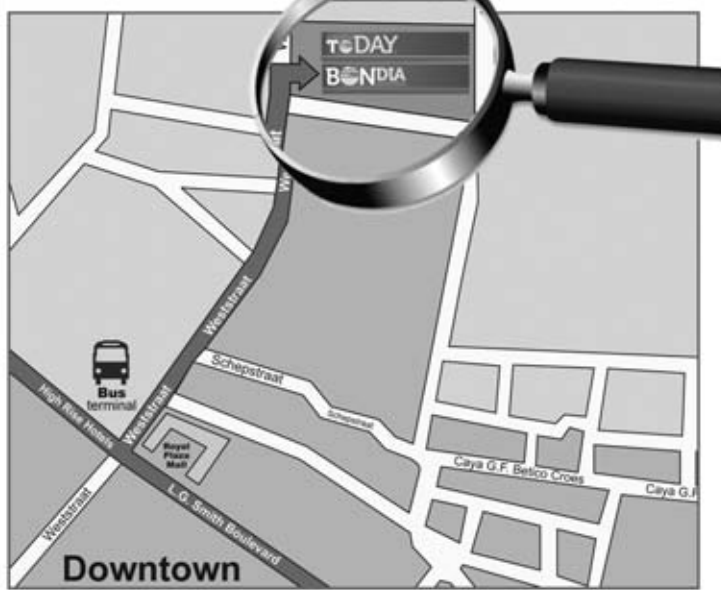
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Japan nuclear agency urges measures to cut plutonium stocks

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

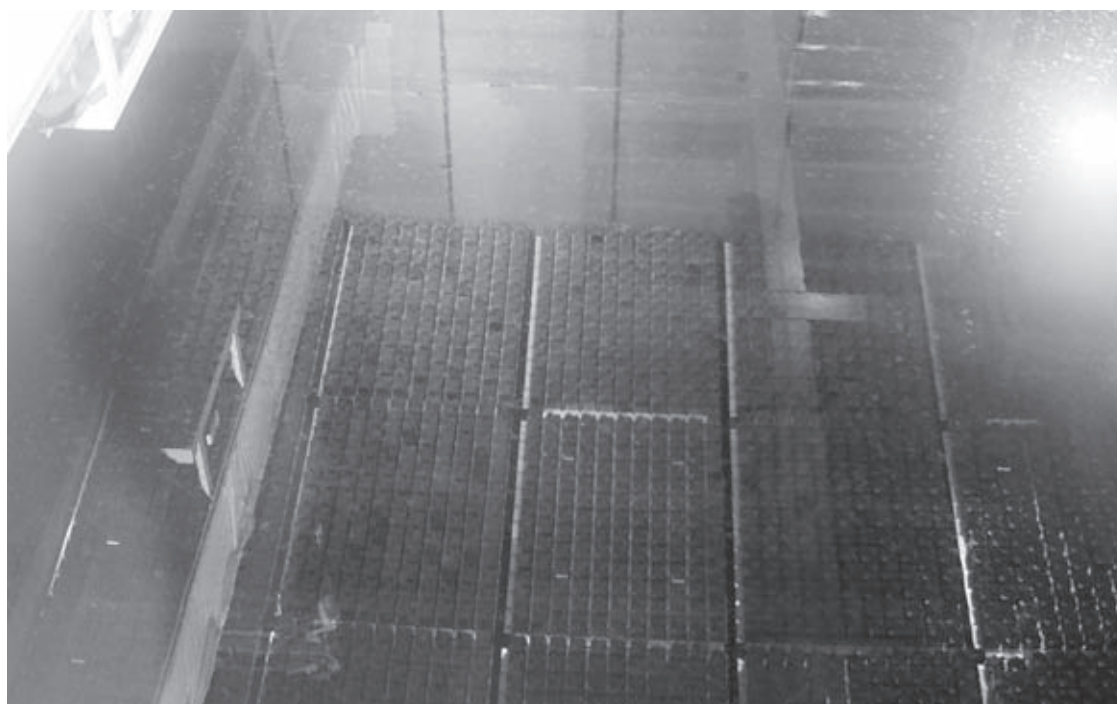
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's nuclear policy-setting body on Thursday endorsed a call for stricter management of its fuel recycling program to reduce its plutonium stockpile.

The annual "nuclear white paper" approved by the Atomic Energy Commission is an apparent response to intensifying pressure from Washington as it pursues denuclearization in North Korea. It says Japan's fuel recycling program should continue, but minimize the amount of plutonium extracted from spent fuel for reuse in power generation to eventually reduce the stockpile.

Japan has pledged to not possess plutonium that does not have a planned use, but the promise increasingly sounds empty because of the slow restarts of Japanese power-generating reactors that can burn plutonium amid setbacks from the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Though Japanese officials deny any possible misuse of the material and reprocessing technology, the large stockpile of plutonium that can make atomic bombs also raises security



In this Nov. 8, 2012, file photo, spent nuclear fuel rods are stored in a storage pool at the Rokkasho nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, run by Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. in Rokasho village in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan.

Associated Press

concerns as the U.S. wants North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

Commission chairman Yoshiaki Oka said the effort to tackle the stockpile is Japan's own initiative underscoring its commitment to a peaceful nuclear program, and not because of the U.S. Oka said he was not aware of any outstanding problem between the two countries over the plutonium issue, but that Japan is taking into consideration

the importance of maintaining "relationship of trust with the U.S."

The commission is compiling guidelines to better manage and reduce the plutonium stockpile. Measures would include some government oversight in setting a cap on plutonium reprocessing and a study into how to steadily reduce the plutonium processed abroad. Oka declined to cite a numerical target, but he said reducing the stock-

pile is a "must."

Japan has nearly 47 tons of plutonium — 10 tons at home and the rest in France and Britain, where spent fuel from Japanese nuclear plants has been reprocessed because Japan is not able to reprocess it into plutonium-based MOX fuel at home.

The amount is enough to make 6,000 atomic bombs, but at Japan's Rokkasho reprocessing plant denies any risk of proliferation,

citing its safeguards and close monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

After years of delay due to technical issues, the Rokkasho plant is in the final stages of safety approvals by the regulators ahead of its planned launch in 2021. Critics, however, say that starting up the plant only adds to the stockpile.

The plant at full capacity can annually produce 8 tons of plutonium, and burning that would require 16-18 reactors — a long shot given the slow pace of restarts and public resistance. Japanese utility operators are also opting to decommission aged reactors rather than making costly safety upgrades to meet the post-Fukushima standards.

Only four reactors have restarted since the Fukushima crisis, using stricter safety requirements and despite resistance of neighbors.

Another setback for Japan's plutonium balance is a failure of Monju, a plutonium-burning reactor built as the centerpiece of Japan's fuel recycling program. Monju had been suspended after a major accident in 1995 and is now being scrapped. □

Temps rise, records fall: Things to know about the July heat



In this July 1, 2018, file photo, the sun sets behind the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Associated Press

By MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you've been hot lately, you're not alone. Record high temperatures have been logged over the past week in the U.S. and around the world.

Here's a quick look at the heat.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

For the week through Tuesday, 227 U.S. records were broken for highest temper-

ature for particular days, and another 157 were tied, federal statistics show.

Some other countries have seen all-time highs, such as 105 degrees (41 C) in Tbilisi, the capital of the nation of Georgia, on Wednesday, and 109 degrees (43 C) in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on Sunday. On Monday, Iran experienced its hottest July temperature ever, 127 degrees (53 C).

IS THIS DUE TO CLIMATE

CHANGE?

"I can't say that right now" without some further research, says Matthew Rosencrans of the National Weather Service. Still, because of global warming, "heat waves like this are likely to be more frequent going forward than they have been in the past."

IS ANY RELIEF IN SIGHT?

In the U.S., Masters said, a cold front should bring relief from the heat and humidity in the Midwest and Northeast on Friday through Sunday. Southern California will get severe heat during that time, he said, with a high of 102 degrees (39 C) forecast for Friday in Los Angeles. That city has experienced only five July days in recorded history that were warmer, he said. □

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Claude Lanzmann, director of 'Shoah,' dies at age 92

By LORI HINNANT

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French director Claude Lanzmann, whose 9½-hour masterpiece "Shoah" bore unflinching witness to the Holocaust through the testimonies of Jewish victims, German executioners and Polish bystanders, has died at the age of 92.

Gallimard, the publishing house for Lanzmann's autobiography, said he died Thursday morning in Paris. It gave no further details.

The power of "Shoah," filmed in the 1970s during Lanzmann's trips to the barren Polish landscapes where the slaughter of Jews was planned and executed, was in viewing the Holocaust as an event in the present, rather than as history. It contained no archival footage, no musical score — just the landscape, trains and recounted memories.

Lanzmann was 59 when the movie, his second, came out in 1985. It defined the Holocaust for those who saw it, and defined him as a filmmaker.

"I knew that the subject of the film would be death itself. Death rather than survival," Lanzmann wrote in the autobiography. "For 12 years I tried to stare relentlessly into the black sun of the Shoah."

"Claude Lanzmann's cinematic work left an indelible mark on the collective memory, and shaped the consciousness of the Holocaust of viewers around the world, in these and other generations," said Avner Shalev, chairman of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

"His departure from us now, along with our recent separation from many Holocaust survivors, marks the end of an era."

"Shoah" was nearly universally praised. Roger Ebert called it "one of the noblest films ever made" and Time Out and The Guardian were among those ranking it the greatest documentary of all time. The Polish government was a notable dissenter, which dismissed the film as "anti-Polish pro-



In this Feb. 14, 2013 file photo, French film director Claude Lanzmann holds the Honorary Golden Bear at the 63rd edition of the Berlinale, in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press

paganda." (but later allowed "Shoah" to be aired in Poland).

In 2013, nearly three decades later, Lanzmann revisited the Holocaust with "The Last of the Unjust," focusing on his interviews in 1975 with a Vienna rabbi who was the last "elder" of the Theresienstadt ghetto, which was used by the Nazis to fool visitors into believing that the Jews were being treated humanely.

His final work, a series of interviews with four Holocaust survivors stitched together into a single 4½ hour film, was released in French theaters Wednesday. But even before that, Lanzmann showed his breadth with the 2017 documentary, "Napalm," which narrated his visit to North Korea in the late 1950s, including him recounting his un consummated affair with a Red Cross nurse in the country.

"The cinematic work of Claude Lanzmann shows how much art contributes to the construction of our collective memory, giving individual resonance to each story," said Audrey Azoulay, a former French culture minister and current director general of UNESCO.

Lanzmann was born Nov. 27, 1925, in Paris, the child

of French Jews. After his mother left in 1934 and the war broke out, Claude and his two siblings moved to a farm where their father timed his children as they practiced escaping to a shelter he had dug.

Lanzmann ultimately joined the Resistance as a Communist and became intellectually enamored with Jean-Paul Sartre, whose "Anti-Semite and Jew" formed the philosophical underpinning of what would later be his life's work. Lanzmann joined Sartre's circle and ended up having an affair with Simone de Beauvoir, Sartre's companion who was 17 years older than the young acolyte. Lanzmann left for Israel and moved in with Beauvoir when he returned, from 1952 to 1959, according to "The Patagonia Hare," his autobiography. Sartre, Lanzmann's hero, became a constant in their life together.

"So I was an opportunist — 'on the make' you say. But she was beautiful. My attraction to her was genuine," he once told Beauvoir's biographer. Long after their affair ended, Beauvoir provided much of the financial support for "Shoah."

Lanzmann tinkered in poli-

tics and journalism, working periodically for the journal France Dimanche, taking on freelance assignments. He joined Sartre in signing the Manifesto for the 121, calling on French soldiers to refuse fighting in Algeria, and was prosecuted.

In 1968, he did television reporting on the Israeli Army in the Sinai Peninsula, which led to his first film: "Israel, Why."

Beauvoir, writing about Lanzmann in her memoir "Force of Circumstance" described him as someone who "seemed to be carrying the weight of a whole ancestral experience on his shoulders."

It was this weight that ultimately led a vagabond intellectual to examine the defining event of 20th century Judaism, obsessively tracking down those who were closest to the dead. "The film would have to take up the ultimate challenge; take the place of the non-existent images of death in the gas chambers," he wrote.

The film opens with Simon Srebnik, who as a 13-year-old Jewish detainee sang for the SS and fed their rabbits at the Chelmno concentration camp. Crediting a sweet voice with his survival, Srebnik performs the

same songs for Lanzmann as he is rowed along the placid river that leads to the camp. Later, it is revealed that among Srebnik's tasks was to dump bags filled with crushed bones of Jews into the same waters.

He filmed Abraham Bomba at work in a Tel Aviv barbershop, describing how he cut women's hair inside the gas chambers Treblinka. With periodic questions by Lanzmann, Bomba recounts how after each group of women was done, the barbers were asked to leave for a few minutes, the women were gassed and then the men returned to cut the hair of dozens more naked women accompanied by their children.

"This room is the last place where they went in alive and they will never go out alive again," he said. "We just cut their hair to make them believe they're getting a nice haircut." The barber begged to stop when he recalled seeing the wife and sister of a friend come in, but Lanzmann prodded him to continue.

Lanzmann sometimes used secret cameras to record testimony, including that of Franz Suchomel, a former guard at Treblinka who pointed like a schoolteacher to a blueprint of the camp to show how bodies were disposed of, describing new gas chambers that could "finish off 3,000 people in two hours." At one point during the interview, Lanzmann promised Suchomel that he would not be recorded.

One of the most harrowing interviews Lanzmann did was also among the briefest in "Shoah" — Yitzhak Zuckerman, a leader of the Jewish resistance in Warsaw, who survived Treblinka and saw untold numbers of friends and comrades die. He told Lanzmann bitterly, "if you could lick my heart, it would poison you."

At the film's premier, the French journalist Jean Daniel told Lanzmann: "This justifies a life."

Lanzmann is survived by his third wife, Dominique, and his daughter Angelique. His son Felix died last year. □

A wild, provocative vision in 'Sorry to Bother You'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Writer and director Boots Riley's crackling first film "Sorry to Bother You" may just be the craziest movie of the year. Fierce, provocative and bold, it's a challenging social statement about race and capitalism wrapped in a colorful, magical realist coating that will leave your head spinning. It is not perfect — far from it — and really goes off the rails at the end, but its ideas and impact are undeniable.

The brilliant Lakeith Stanfield stars as Cassius Green, a young man living with his artist-activist girlfriend Detroit (Tessa Thompson) in his uncle's garage in Oakland, California. He's behind on his rent and desperately needs a job. In an interview at a telemarketing agency, RegalView, he touts his accomplishments from jobs past and has even brought an employee of the month placard from one of his gigs, like a kid at show and tell.

But while this image might tug at some heartstrings,



This image released by Annapurna Pictures shows Tessa Thompson and Lakeith Stanfield in a scene from the film, "Sorry To Bother You."

Associated Press

it's not as simple as it looks. The man behind the desk knows Cassius, or Cash as many of his friends call him, is lying. He's fabricated his resume and gotten his friend to pose as a former supervisor. But the recruiter is impressed with his initiative and hires him on the spot. Besides, he says, telemarketing doesn't require any skills.

The RegalView offices are in a dreary, soul-crushing basement, packed to the brim with row upon row of cubicle-bound workers making unsolicited phone

calls trying to sell encyclopedias to unappreciative customers. The film illustrates this invasive process in a wildly funny way, showing Cash and his entire cubicle drop into the living room or kitchen of whom-ever he is calling.

Work is not going well for Cash, until a friendly co-worker, Langston (Danny Glover), leans over and suggests he use his "white voice" (not a "Will Smith white voice," he clarifies). So Cash begins speaking in a higher pitched, nasally voice that is unmistakable

as the unique vocal stylings of David Cross and, well, it works. Really, really well. Suddenly Cash is making sales, catching the attention of his bosses and on track to get a big promotion to "Power Caller" that would get him out of the basement.

Stanfield, who is always memorable no matter how big the role, from "Short Term 12" to "Get Out," delivers a powerful performance as Cassius in his oppression, his empowerment and eventual enlightenment. Both he and Thomp-

son effortlessly maintain their characters' integrity even as the narrative gets exponentially crazier as the film goes on. And it only gets crazier.

Cash's ascent does not come without some moral compromise and in accepting the fancy new position, he not only becomes a scab while his former co-workers strike, but he's also decided to turn a blind eye to the fact that he's now essentially hawking slave labor for a company called WorryFree, run by an arrogant bro-CEO played by Armie Hammer.

WorryFree preys on the poor, promising a life without bills or commutes in exchange for a lifetime labor contract working for the company and living on the factory grounds. Sunny advertisements, which play on the breaks of a TV game show called "I Got The (Expletive) Kicked Out of Me," show prison-like conditions, with crowded bunk beds and slop for food, but the actors are all happy and healthy and promise that the food is great. □

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<p>ANTMAN & THE WASP PAUL RUDD EVANGELINE LILLY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM 2D MON-FRI 4:15 6:50 9:25 SAT, SUN & HOL 1:45 4:15 6:50 9:25 MON-FRI 5:15 7:50 SAT, SUN & HOL 2:40 5:15 7:50</p>	<p>THE FIRST PURGE Y'LAN NOEL MARISA TOMEI MON-THURS 4:55 7:15 9:35 FRI 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SAT 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SUN & HOL 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35</p>
<p>UNCLE DREW KYRIE IRVING LIL REL HOWERY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS 4:50 7:10 9:30 FRI 4:50 7:10 9:30 11:50 SAT 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30 11:50 SUN & HOL 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30</p>	<p>JURASSIC WORLD JEFF GOLDBLUM CHRIS PRATT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS & SUN 3:45 6:25 7:20 9:10 FRI & SAT 3:45 6:25 7:20 9:10 10:00</p>
<p>INCREDIBLES 2 SAMUEL L. JACKSON CRAIG T. NELSON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS 4:40 5:05 7:45 FRI 4:40 5:05 7:45 10:25 SAT 2:00 2:25 4:40 5:05 7:45 10:25 SUN & HOL 2:00 2:25 4:40 5:05 7:45</p>	<p>OCEAN'S 8 SANDRA BULLOCK CATE BLANCHETT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS 4:30 6:55 9:20 FRI 4:30 6:55 9:20 11:45 SAT 2:05 4:30 6:55 9:20 11:45 SUN & HOL 2:05 4:30 6:55 9:20</p>

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Charles Lloyd and Lucinda Williams, a dazzling blend

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Charles Lloyd & The Marvels + Lucinda Williams, "Vanished Gardens" (Blue Note)

Renowned saxophonist Charles Lloyd and singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams bring the best of their musical worlds to "Vanished Gardens," a dazzling blend of jazz tunes glowing like embers and Williams' intricately poetic songs.

Lloyd establishes a reflective mood right from the start on opening ballad "Defiant," with Bill Frisell's guitar and Greg Leisz's pedal steel laying foundations for his tenor saxophone, along with the other two Marvels, drummer Eric Harland and bassist Reuben Rogers. Frisell and Leisz each take



This cover image released by Blue Note shows "Vanished Gardens," a new release by Charles Lloyd & The Marvels + Lucinda Williams.

solo turns, but their playing, each from one channel of the stereo spectrum, often feels more like a duet.

Near its conclusion, Lloyd returns front and center to add some more delicate melodies. □

Associated Press

Standing ovation at Valentino caps Paris couture week

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Rarely does the demure Paris couture week see a standing ovation.

Even rarer is the whooping and screaming that echoed around the gilded salons of the Hotel Salomon de Rothschild as Pierpaolo Piccioli took his bow following Valentino's collection Wednesday evening.

Mika, Valentino Garavani, Natalia Vodianova and Tracee Ellis Ross all got to their feet as the rousing operatic voice of Maria Callas played out the sumptuous creations from what was the week's strongest collection.

Here are some highlights of the last day of haute couture week fall-winter displays.

VALENTINO'S OPERA

With the stirring aria of "Casta Diva," the couture seemed to take as its starting point the glory days of the height of legend Callas' career in the 1960s.

Giant brushed-back wig hair and an unstructured celadon blue silk gown with intricate intarsia cape opened the 63-look show in that era's exaggerated style. It took 1,120 hours to make.



Models wear creations for the Valentino Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2018/2019 fashion collection presented Wednesday, July 4, 2018 in Paris.

Large round multicolored floral headpieces continued the retro feel.

Loose, exaggerated plays on proportion then followed.

Gargantuan scarf-wraps surrounded the body and one, in vermilion, came actually attached across the bust.

Bows at the collar in mikado, one in fluorescent yellow, were so big they finished at the hip.

Despite the size, the looks were never over-theatrical

as Piccioli ensured to keep the proportions balanced from top to bottom, and in keeping with the models' body size.

One floor-sweeping triangular feather dress could have been overpowering, but was modelled on 5ft 10 inch model Kaia Gerber, Cindy Crawford's daughter, with huge va-va-voom hair.

It was archetypal dramatic couture.

GAULTIER'S ODE TO SMOKING

Associated Press

A tardy Naomi Campbell triggered a dangerous media scrum as she entered Jean-Paul Gaultier.

It raised the heat in the already scorching atmosphere as sweating fashionistas fanned themselves with Gaultier-branded fans. It's been banned in public but smoking, the theme of the fall-winter couture, has evidently not been outlawed as a source of fashion inspiration.

The unusual homage by Gaultier to one of the

world's dirtiest, and most glamorous, habits made for a typically tongue-in-cheek collection of 73 varied looks.

A black tuxedo jacket had the words "Gaultier Smoking" emblazoned on the front.

It was a play on words on the French translation of "tuxedo," "le smoking" — and one that continued in myriad black and white deconstructions of tuxedo looks.

A surreal variation on the red Fez hat from Morocco a country famed for its shisha pipes also made an appearance. It covered the face, and from eye slits, the red tassels seemed to hang down like tears.

Tulle mouth masks followed white plume boas representing plumes of smoke.

But the final creation a giant silver bridal veil was the most creative look. Its shimmering, five-meter (16-foot) train was so diaphanous, it licked the air and evoked rising smoke.

Pedro Almodovar's muse, actress Rossy de Palma, applauded from the front row.

ELIE SAAB'S GAUDI

Elie Saab took his itinerant couture inspiration to Barcelona this season. □

Peruvian restoration center rescues art from ruin

BY FRANKLIN BRICENO
Associated Press

CUZCO, Peru (AP) — The old colonial palace high in the Andes and crowded with treasures from Peru's bygone golden age feels more like an emergency room than a workshop for recovering damaged artwork.

But sculptures of decapitated Roman Catholic saints, dismembered angels and charred paintings from remote churches across the spine of the Andes all find their way here, where a team of dedicated specialists works to restore them after catastrophic fires and centuries of neglect.

"They are like patients suffering terminal cancer who we are bringing back



In this March 1, 2018, photo, an art restorer work on a sculpture of Jesus Christ in a studio of the Ministry of Culture's Restoration Center in Cuzco, Peru.

Associated Press

to life," said Erwin Castilla, head of canvas conservation at the Ministry of Culture's Restoration Center in Cuzco.

The facility, which opened in 2003, claims to be the only one of its kind operating in Peru and has already made major contributions to the country's cultural heritage:

Between 2015 and 2017 it rescued more than 500 paintings, sculptures, and ceramic pieces.

The center's teams of more than 50 conservationists wear surgical masks and use modern technology like X-ray and ultraviolet machines to uncover images that over time have faded away on canvases that average 300 years old. □

AP Explains: Novichok nerve agent that sickened UK couple

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Novichok, a lethal nerve agent that nearly killed a former Russian spy and his daughter in March and recently sickened another couple in England, was the product of a highly secretive Soviet chemical weapons program. Here are key highlights of the program and the agent.

WHEN WAS NOVICHOK DESIGNED?

The Soviet program to design a new generation of chemical weapons called Foliant began in the 1970s to counter the latest U.S. chemical weapons.

Soviet leaders wanted the equivalent of U.S. binary weapons — agents made up of relatively harmless components that turn deadly when mixed, making them easier to operate than regular chemical weapons.

While agents of the Novichok class were highly lethal, the program was only partly successful, as some of the components were as toxic as the military-grade nerve agents and thus hard to handle safely.

The Soviet leadership eventually lost interest in chemical weapons, seeing them as excessive when compared with Moscow's massive nuclear arsenal. Novichok-class agents only were produced in lab quantities and never entered production. Vladimir Uglev, a top scientist in the program, estimates that



In this photo taken on Oct. 4, 1987, a Soviet army serviceman in protective suit handles toxic substances during in chemical weapons research facility in Shikhany, Russia.

Associated Press

about 100 kilograms (220 pounds) were made for research and military tests.

HOW LETHAL IS NOVICHOK?

Uglev, who says he was the first to synthesize A-234, a strain of the Novichok family of agents that was used in the attack that nearly killed former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, described the agent as much deadlier than any U.S. equivalents.

Just a few milligrams of the odorless liquid — the weight of a snowflake —

were enough to kill a person within minutes.

Uglev said that A-234 could remain deadly for a long time — even if a few tiny drops are left in a syringe or impregnated into wood.

COULD IT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS?

The main Soviet research center that designed the Novichok-class agents was in Shikhany, a town in southwestern Russia. It was one of the "closed cities" isolated by the KGB. The sprawling facility also housed chemical depots and a military firing range, where nerve agents were tested.

Some Novichok-related research also was conducted at a main Moscow research center, which shared samples with other labs across the Soviet Union.

Despite the U.S. oversight to dismantle Russia's chemical arsenals after the Soviet collapse, Uglev said he couldn't exclude that some lab workers might have been tempted to sell toxic substances amid the economic meltdown and politi-

cal turmoil in the 1990s.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRACE NOVICHOK'S SOURCE?

Uglev and other experts say it may never be possible to determine the nerve agent's origin.

To determine what specific lab produced a given sample of Novichok, it's necessary to find an identical specimen from the same

batch — an impossible task.

"You can identify the agent, but it's impossible to track down its source," Uglev said.

WHAT IS THE RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REACTION?

Russia has fiercely denied British accusations over the Skripals' poisoning and accused London of using the incident to fan an anti-Russian campaign. Moscow said that last year it completed the destruction of 40,000 metric tons of chemical weapons left from the Soviet era, an effort that spanned two decades under close international oversight.

Asked to comment on the second case of Novichok poisoning in England, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, reaffirmed the Kremlin's staunch denial of any involvement.

"Russia has categorically denied and continues to categorically deny the possibility of any kind of involvement in what was happening there," he said. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova urged the British government to end what she described as "intrigues and games with chemical agents," and some Russian lawmakers suggested that the poisoning could be traced to a British source. □



In this file photo taken on Oct. 4, 1987, a Soviet army officer presents ammunition rigged with chemical agents in chemical weapons research facility in Shikhany, Russia.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 4, 1987 photo, a lab rabbit rests in a container in chemical weapons research facility in Shikhany, Russia.

Associated Press